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Near East/South Asia Report

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ARAB MINISTERS OF INTERIOR APPROVE PLAN TO FIGHT NARCOTICS

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Dec 86 p 3

[Article: "The Conference of Arab Ministers of Interior Institutes an Arab Strategy to Fight Drugs"]

[Text] The Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior in the sessions that it held yesterday instituted an Arab strategy to fight drugs and approved the recommendations of the 11th Conference of the Heads of Police and Security, the second meeting of the officials of the council of ministers of the interior, the first meeting of the directors of criminal evidence in the Arab states, and the first meeting of officials responsible for border, airport, and port security, in the Arabs states. The council turned the subject of the establishment of a sanatorium for the treatment of drug addicts in the Arab world over to the Council of Arab Ministers of Health.

The Conference of Arab Minsters of Interior began its work yesterday morning in Tunisia. Rachid Sfar, the Tunisian prime minister, opened the conference on behalf of President Habib Bourguiba. Afterwards, the first working session of the conference was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency 'Abdallah al-Mazru'i, minister of justice, head of the United Arab Emirates delegation, and current chairman of the conference, who gave a speech in which he affirmed that this meeting would strengthen the goals that everyone is endeavoring to achieve.

His excellency praised the achievements that the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior had realized, including what has been accomplished by the Arab Center for Security Study and Training in al-Riyadh.

He expressed his confidence that the conference would turn its attention to the topics included on the agenda, especially the designing of an Arab strategy to fight drugs, since this problem is considered one of the dangerous problems that the Arab states are all aiming at and that requires coordination and collective cooperation to confront.

President Bourguiba warned in his speech about the the danger of plans to turn world public opinion against the Arabs and their causes that the Arab nation faces from certain hostile parties, especially Israel, and the danger of the various forms of material and moral terrorism that that Israel employs in the

occupied territories. He called for unified Arab action in confronting these dangers.

His Highness Prince Nayif Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of the interior and honorary chairman of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior, also spoke in the opening session. In his speech, he called for effective confrontation of the problems of drugs on the level of the Arab world and for designing plans to ensure the resistance against this problem.

Chadli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, gave a speech in which he praised the results that the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior had accomplished during the last few years.

In this regard he pointed out two issues, saying that they possess a national importance. They are dealing with the Palestinians located in Arab countries in such a way that their steadfastness is achieved and facilitating procedures for Arab citizens to move among Arab countries.

He said that the Arab strategy to fight drugs is of exceptional importance because of the dangers that result from this problem. He called for Arab and international cooperation to confront it.

13292

CSO: 4404/141

AFP CITES 'MAIN POINTS' OF OPEC MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE

HK200612 Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Geneva, Dec 20 (AFP)--Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in a communique issued after their ten-day talks here made the following main points:

"Recalling (last October's) decision...to restore as soon as possible the system of fixed prices, and in view of the need for member countries to secure stability and predictability for their oil revenues necessary for their economic and social development, the conference decided to approve the recommendation of the ministerial committee on pricing to return promptly to a fixed pricing system at a level of 18 dollars for OPEC's reference price.

"The price, which is based on a basket of seven crudes, will come into force on January 1, 1987, with the understanding that a one-month phase-out period is agreed on current contracts.

"The conference discussed the problem of the relative values of the various OPEC crudes vis-a-vis the reference price with a view to achieving equal competitiveness among them so that member countries would share in an equitable manner in defending the OPEC reference price. For this purpose it was agreed that the maximum value difference between Arab heavy and bonny light should not exceed 2.65 dollars per barrel."

The communique said this matter would be "periodically reviewed" by a ministerial committee on price differentials chaired by Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, and composed of the ministers of Algeria, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

It said the committee should "recommend to the conference the changes in these differentials that could periodically be decided upon."

The text added:

"Moreover, the conference discussed the necessary mechanism to defend the OPEC reference price and came to the conclusion that in view of the existence of excessive oil supplies in the market, it is necessary to undertake cuts in OPEC's production level as a means to support that price.

"An agreement was reached that OPEC's total production for the first and second quarters of 1987 should not exceed 15.8 million barrels a day (MBD), representing a cut of 7.6 percent and 7.1 percent respectively from the perceived demand for OPEC oil during these two quarters.

"It was also agreed that a production regulation should be pursued throughout the remaining period of the year in order to ensure enough support for the new OPEC price structure."

The communique said the appointment of a new secretary-general would be discussed by the ministers' next regular meeting, to be held in Vienna next June 25.

/6662

CSO: 4400/82

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BAHRAINI OFFICIALS COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF BRIDGE

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15 DEC 86 PP 25-29

[Interview with Habib Ahmad Qasim and Tariq al-Mu'ayyid: "Bridge Between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia Expected to Enhance Trade"; in Bahrain, date not specified]

[Text] Mr Habib Ahmad Qasim, the Bahraini minister of commerce, talked to AL-MAJALLAH about the economic significance of the Saudi-Bahraini bridge. The minister said that this bridge will bolster commercial ties among area countries that will witness great growth in the exchange of national products. He added that Bahraini citizens and merchants will reap great benefits. The minister pointed out that this bridge will put an end to the recent economic recession in the area. Following is the text of the interview with Mr Habib Ahmad Qasim.

[Question] On the occasion of the opening of the bridge, can you tell something about trade relations between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain?

[Answer] The fact is that relations throughout the ages have been strong and deep-rooted in all fields, including economic and trade relations which are excellent at the level of trade exchanges or joint economic projects. The bridge will consolidate these relations, strengthen trade cooperation, and simplify matters by removing the natural obstacles that used to impede trade exchanges, namely the transportation process. I believe that in the upcoming stage the countries will witness an upsurge in trade activity, be it in the exchange of industrial and agricultural products of national origin or with regard to increased transit trade between the two countries.

[Question] What measures do you plan to take with regard to transportation between the two countries following the opening of the bridge?

[Answer] Measures will be ordinary, such as customs points from both countries along the bridge and easy flow of national products in accordance with the last summit's resolution whereby the only required procedure for such products will be a certificate of origin approved by official sides in both countries. There will be no need for a local trade agent for national industrial and agricultural goods. Regarding the transit trade, no obstacles

will be encountered owing to the existence of an Arab agreement signed by the kingdom and Bahrain whereby the only required procedure will be to identify it as such. Now we come to the matter of private importation. There are no obstacles in the way of such imports. They are subject only to standard customs duties imposed on goods imported into Bahrain or Saudi Arabia. Such duties in Saudi Arabia are known. Some goods are exempt or subject to a 7 percent duty while in Bahrain the fee ranges from 5 to 10 percent. Duties will be imposed if goods brought in by a traveller exceed personal needs.

[Question] What is the volume of trade exchange between the two countries and what are your projections for the future in the wake of opening the bridge, particularly in light of the downward trend since 1984?

[Answer] Trade exchange in national products has been on a steady rise, a very significant trend in view of previous maritime transportation problems. In the last 2 years, the exchange volume has grown as a result of two important happenings: the elimination of customs duties among GCC countries and the fact that many industries and agricultural projects in the two countries have gone into production. The drop in trade exchange occurred only in the transit trade because in the last 2 years the area has experienced an overall drop in imports following the completion of infrastructure projects. At any rate, we are looking to augment the transit trade and the volume of national product exchange following the opening of the bridge. Many of our agricultural imports will come in from Saudi Arabia as Saudi products and not as foreign goods coming through Saudi Arabia. For example, a month ago we signed an agreement with the Saudi Silo Corporation to import our entire need of Saudi wheat and this goes for other products as well. Why should we import from the outside world when the same goods are available in our region at favorable prices?

[Question] What will be the nature of trade and economic cooperation among GCC countries following the bridge's opening in view of the prevalent belief that the bridge will bring an end to stagnation in the region?

[Answer] The fact is that the bridge will be Bahrain's gateway to all countries of the world. Regarding trade exchange among GCC countries, the last 3 years have witnessed a great jump in the exchange of national products. The bridge will lower transportation costs considerably. In the past, for example, transportation costs from Jiddah to Bahrain were much higher than from Japan to Australia. We hope that the bridge will render transportation costs more reasonable, thus lowering the overall price and enhancing the exchange process among GCC countries. Another example is that in the past we used to import our cement from Korea because of the high cost of transportation from Saudi Arabia. The bridge may change all of this, for it will encourage the undertaking of joint projects among GCC countries, thus alleviating economic recession. Actually, the decisions on economic citizenship among the GCC is a big leap. These are important resolutions that took on added significance in summit conferences, the Muscat summit in particular, by setting a program for implementing the agreement. I believe that trade cooperation among GCC countries has passed through good times and there is a desire to push it forward.

[Question] What joint projects do you think must be implemented in the future between the kingdom and Bahrain or among GCC countries in general?

[Answer] Between the kingdom and Bahrain, the private sectors in both countries held meetings through the chambers of commerce to study proposed ideas concerning a large number of agricultural, industrial and, investment projects. A joint committee has been formed to study these ideas and put them into practice. We hold great hopes based on this contact. Within the framework of the GCC, cabinet committees in the various economic fields will hold ongoing debates on joint action and joint projects. We have, for example, cooperation in joint procurement which will lead to a lower cost of living, something of concern to GCC citizens and governments.

[Question] How can Gulf investors invest their money and what facilities do you plan to offer them?

[Answer] It is a known fact that the trade field in GCC countries has been saturated and, therefore, I do not think that any businessman will invest in any project without careful study and deliberation. As for the industrial and agricultural sectors and tourist services, I imagine that opportunities still abound. GCC leaders have adopted a resolution aimed at promoting industrial investment, fish wealth, and construction whereby any Gulf citizen can build and own a project in any GCC country. In Bahrain, the Ministry of Development and Industry, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture are undertaking a study to review electric power rates to encourage industrial and agricultural investments. The council of ministers has agreed to lower rents in various industrial zones in Bahrain and to cut investment costs to enable investors to compete with foreign imports which are sold at low prices by countries in need of hard currency, thus threatening young industries in the region.

[Question] How do you view Bahraini businessmen's apprehensions about the new bridge?

[Answer] A while back I gave a lecture on the bridge's impact on businessmen and employees. The theme was that if we are to withdraw into ourselves or if merchants are to limit themselves to a narrow market, the Bahrain market to wit, the bridge will add to that. Our primary concern is the establishment of close private sector relations among GCC countries and between the kingdom and Bahrain in particular, through the chambers of commerce. The Saudi market is a vast one that can accommodate large numbers from the private sector. Recent resolutions ratified by the Gulf summit will open more trade opportunities, both in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The bridge is meant to simplify, not complicate matters. I believe that the benefits will be great for consumers as well as businessmen. Hence the alleged apprehensions are unwarranted. One must have a broader perspective. The outcome will be in favor of the trade sector, in Bahrain in particular.

[Question] What are the most conspicuous problems facing Bahrain in the field of trade?

[Answer] Trade activity has experienced great growth in the last two decades, a period of stiff competition. Regarding the trade sector and its present status compared to a few years ago, there are differences that have presented a problem in that personal outlook was progressive, but the drop in state incomes brought about by lower oil prices prompted individuals to refrain from buying anything they wanted as they used to do 5 years ago, hence the overstock in durable goods in particular. The other side of the coin is the last decade's imports to major cities. Other problems are caused by the recent 40 percent rise in the value of certain currencies, such as the German mark and the Japanese yen, reflected in the prices of goods coming in from these countries. Another problem is that permits that were in demand at the end of the last decade created greater competition not in their interest because many projects have been completed. However, in the shade of a judicious policy based on encouraging the private sector, individual needs and experiences must be satisfied. We can only alert investors or merchants to potentially bad investments, but we cannot impose on them anything without legislation, something we do not wish to do.

On the occasion of the opening of the Saudi-Bahraini bridge, AL-MAJALLAH had a special interview with the Bahraini Minister of Information, Mr Tariq al-Mu'ayyid, who talked about the economic, tourist, and political impact this huge historic project is expected to have on relations between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He also talked about the special relations binding the guardian of the two holy places, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the ruler of Bahrain. Following is the text of the interview.

[Question] How do you view the current visit of the guardian of the two holy places to Bahrain?

[Answer] Indeed, Bahrain is honored by this visit. We are aware of the special bonds between His Royal Highness Shaykh 'Isa and the guardian of the holy places, King Fahd. This visit, undertaken under these circumstances, underscores the deep bonds between our two countries. We are proud of the fact that this is not the first visit, noting that Bahrain had been honored by a previous visit during the summit conference held in Bahrain when the cornerstone for the bridge we are inaugurating today was laid. It is fortunate that the guardian of the holy places should make two consecutive visits, one to lay the cornerstone and the second to inaugurate the bridge. These two visits embody the true meaning of the bonds between the two peoples as they embody Bahrain's sincere appreciation and gratitude for the help Saudi Arabia offered to Bahrain and for the bonds that were established during the first visits of the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz during the rule of the late Shaykh 'Isa Ibn 'Ali, the great grandfather of Shaykh 'Isa, throughout the past 50 years. The bridge is the fruit of that great gift that produced a firmly rooted mellow tree. We look to that gift because it is a symbol of which we are proud.

[Question] What preparations have been made to celebrate King Fahd's visit to Bahrain?

[Answer] I do not give away any secrets when I say that he will receive a warm official and popular welcome. His Royal Highness' instructions are to afford this visit more attention than any other visit to Bahrain. Although the preparation time is short, I believe that the people of Bahrain will take part in receiving the guardian of the holy places because the affection, appreciation, and loyalty Bahrain feels toward the kingdom can only emanate from the Bahraini people's sincerity and personal affection and their desire to manifest this loyalty to the kingdom and its monarch, King Fahd. We expect all social, economic, industrial, and educational leaders to participate in this great reception and we expect the informational programs to reinforce this sentiment. I have been in contact with the brothers in the Saudi Ministry of Information and we have succeeded in arriving at a formula that can manifest the above. It has been agreed to have joint coverage of events whereby the two information agencies will act as one, presenting the same coverage. This is a pioneering experiment that can be of benefit in the future.

[Question] How do you view relations between the two countries following the opening of the bridge?

[Answer] In the political sphere, we find political relations to be strong, and personal relations between the guardian of the holy places, King Fahd, and his brother, His Royal Highness Shaykh 'Isa, are considered to be ideal and must be preserved. From the standpoint of trade, we are looking for wider opportunities for the people of the two countries, regardless of whether the beneficiaries are Saudis or Bahrainis. We have common interests and the people of the two countries will benefit from a greater trade volume. We are more concerned with the fact that citizens will have greater job opportunities and lower commodity prices. We believe that prices will drop, that of Jordanian and other fruits in particular, because such prices in Saudi Arabia are much lower than in Bahrain. Also, we find that, in view of our responsibility for tourism, we will seek to raise the number of Saudi and Gulf visitors to Bahrain. And in view of the kinship between the Bahraini and Saudi peoples in the eastern region, we believe that visits will increase and Bahrain is ready to be the regional tourist center of this area. We are proud of the love the Gulf people have for us as we are proud of the tourist and professional capabilities the Bahraini people can offer every Gulf visitor and every Saudi visitor in particular because we have one culture and one Islamic and Arab history and faith.

[Question] What are the most prominent economic implications Bahrain will experience following the opening of the bridge in particular and the implications in the region in general?

[Answer] The bridge will have a psychological return first because of the economic recession in the area. We need some projects that will have a psychological return. I believe that the bridge's political and psychological return is much greater than can be achieved overnight because the commercial, economic, and industrial returns will come in time when industrialists and businessmen discover business opportunities in both countries and find markets for their products. But the psychological return will be great. The people of Bahrain want to have ties with the Arabian Peninsula and the inhabitants of

the eastern region know Bahrain perhaps better than the current bond that used to be a dream. When this dream comes true, it will stimulate economic activity and will bring about a boom generated by tourism and social contact. We are looking to achieve many gains for our citizens, gains that will consolidate relations between us. Another equally important matter is that a large number of Bahrain graduates and specialists will be able to make great contributions, spurred by the feeling that serving in the kingdom is like serving in Bahrain. I also believe that work in al-Jubayl gives every Saudi the feeling that if his Bahrain brother can do the job, better to give him the chance than to bring in someone from outside our area and our culture.

[Question] As chairman of the Higher Tourism Council, how do you assess the expected number of Saudi tourists to Bahrain? And, has there been contacts between the two countries aimed at simplifying entry and departure procedures for resident aliens?

[Answer] First, with regard to simplifying travel procedures for the citizens of the two countries, nothing more can be added to the existing system whereby citizens are treated the same in both countries where they enjoy the same rights. Simplification will be aimed at companions. For example, Saudi families wishing to visit Bahrain with a driver, a servant, or a cook will be able to bring such companions in if they sponsor them. I think this will encourage tourism because families prefer to bring their own hired help. We are especially seeking to gain families because the Saudi family has the same temperament and traditions as the Bahraini one. Such visits will have a considerable effect on the enrichment of familial relations between the two countries and from the standpoint of tourism, they will yield great returns even though some hotels will feel the impact of families preferring to stay in apartments. There are ample hotel and apartment accommodations. The Higher Tourism Council has undertaken special studies aimed at simplifying the travel process for Saudi families in particular following the opening of the bridge. Pamphlets featuring landmarks and main attractions will be given out at the entrance to the bridge and road signals will be posted to guide travellers to Bahrain. There will also be a bridge information center providing tourist, cultural, and informational services to Saudi visitors and anyone else crossing the bridge. Our attention is also devoted to the establishment of transportation companies to serve people wishing to travel by bus. Procedures will be simple and visitors will feel at home. This will promote tourism.

[Question] What is the expected number of visitors following the opening of the bridge?

[Answer] All figures are still speculative and some of them, including the claim that 5,000 to 10,000 cars will cross the bridge in one day, are unrealistic. I believe that these figures were presented as an extreme. We know that the number of Gulf visitors to Bahrain is between 200,000 and 300,000 a year. Of course, the bridge will add to this number, especially from the kingdom. I personally believe that this number could reach 100,000.

[Question] What about entry laws governing foreigners working in Gulf countries? How will their entry be regulated?

[Answer] Through coordination between the Ministry of Information, the Office of Tourism, and the Office of Immigration. Less than a month ago, a proposal enacted by the Passport and Immigration Office to grant a 7-day rather than a 3-day visa was put into force to benefit foreign communities in GCC countries. Likewise, companies and institutions operating in GCC countries, particularly those working in the kingdom's eastern region, are entitled to that and may apply for multiple entries for their employees whenever necessary. This can be coordinated with hotels as well because we have granted them the capability to obtain entry permits. Hotels can grant entry visas for a longer period without inconvenience to the traveller because the hotel management can conclude the whole procedure with the Immigration Office.

[Question] What are the most outstanding tourist projects under implementation at the present time and what are the most conspicuous tourist problems in Bahrain?

[Answer] The first fruits of the Higher Tourism Council's efforts were the establishment of a tourist services company which plans to build a swimming pool in the north of al-Manamah. This project will benefit Bahraini citizens and Gulf tourists in particular. It will have all the facilities of a beach. This "beach" actually will be the beginning of tourist activity and will cost between 3 and 4 million dinars. The company's capital will be 1 million dinars and will be raised in the future to 10 million because we plan to make this project self-contained. About your question concerning the most important tourist problems in Bahrain, they are represented in the Bahraini people's concept of tourism. We understand Gulf tourism as attracting families to create a bond between the area's inhabitants in general and the Saudis and Bahrainis in particular. Tourism in our country does not have the same meaning as in Europe. It is oriented toward the family and visits between brothers. Our efforts will continue to be in this direction because our aim is not to create a recreation industry for this is not our culture. If we realize this, everyone will know that tourism in Bahrain is nothing but an extension of what may be called social services that bind families and the two countries by love and brotherhood.

[Question] What plans do you have to promote Gulf capital investment in tourist projects.

[Answer] This matter has been under consideration. We are in the process of preparing projects to be presented as plans in which the Tourist Office and the Tourist Corporation can participate, each according to its capabilities. However, detailed studies must be prepared to aid investors in their decision-making. We in Bahrain want to have a sophisticated and profitable tourist industry of benefit to the people of Bahrain and investors as well. These are the goals we are seeking to achieve.

12502

CSO: 4404/130

PROPOSALS PROMOTING GCC INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 22 Nov 86 p 19

[Article: "General Secretariat of GCC Chambers of Commerce Federation Presents 12 Proposals for Expansion of Gulf Industrial Exports"]

[Text] As part of the endeavors to promote Gulf industrial exports among GCC countries, the General Secretariat of the Federation of Gulf Arab Chambers of Commerce presented 12 proposals for expanding Gulf industrial exports. These proposals, disseminated to the competent GCC parties, are as follows:

--Establishment of a Gulf bank to finance exports and provide financial aid, guarantees, and insurance to exporters.

--Recommendation to the Gulf Ministry of Commerce to set up a Gulf unified central office for foreign trade to provide information and suggestions for stimulating export activities and to offer advice to exporters.

--Elimination of all impediments and red tape hampering the flow of national products and services among Gulf countries.

--Recommendation to competent authorities to establish Gulf marketing offices and to contribute to the cost of entering world markets.

--Coordination with trade and export corporations and chambers of commerce to organize a Gulf export conference to find solutions to existing problems and to determine strategies for stimulating export activity.

--Inclusion of Gulf Arab chambers of commerce representatives in trade delegations, consulting with them on bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and including them in oversight committees therefor.

--Expansion of training programs for export marketing, preparation of studies on export opportunities and choice markets via specialized economic organizations, and efforts to spread export awareness among Gulf producers.

--Establishment of joint Gulf companies for foreign marketing, in the fields of petrochemicals and public and private sector products in particular; incorporation of all export capabilities of identical industries and companies

under one trade name; and provision of joint export services such as storage, transportation, packaging, wrapping, and projections by the consulting, financing, and marketing experts.

--Restoration of the right to issue certificates of origin to Gulf chambers of commerce and limit the decision making process to approval.

--Innovation in incentive and assistance programs for exporters, including awards for businessmen who achieve outstanding foreign export rates.

--Wider participation in international fairs with a unified pavilion for Gulf Arab countries.

--Quality control to gain trust in international markets and to avoid the detrimental effect of marketing inferior quality products by attaching specifications and quality seals to export documents as a prerequisite for approving certificates of origin.

12502

CSO: 4404/130

BRIEFS

ALUMINUM PRODUCTION INVESTMENT--The Gulf Organization for Industrial Investment based in Doha prepared a study on the opportunities for investment in the production of aluminum rings used in the manufacture of household utensils in the Arab Gulf states. The study determined the actual state of the aluminum industry in the Arab Gulf states and its increasing importance as one of the primary industries that enjoy a number of relative advantages that make it capable of becoming one of the leading industries of the region. The study indicated that the region was still poor in markets of distribution suitable for the actual production of existing aluminum blast furnaces, a fact that emphasizes the importance of assistance directed at establishing and developing industries of intermediate and finished aluminum products. It explained that the establishment of a Gulf factory to produce aluminum rings, which used in the production of household utensils and which are currently imported from abroad, is a step toward integrating the Gulf aluminum industry. In addition, it works to increase use of aluminum one half the factory within the region and thus works to lessen dependence on the international market to distribute the larger part of local production. The report mentioned that the Gulf region produces 320,000 tons of primary aluminum annually and that most of this production is exported abroad. Likewise, the region has factories to produce household utensils from aluminum and most of the needs of these factories in terms of aluminum rings are imported from industrialized countries. The study emphasized the importance of considering conducting a study on the benefits of constructing a factory to produce aluminum rings and of manufacturing certain kinds of household utensils plated with non-stick materials with the goal of ensuring the region's needs for these materials, especially since both the project to produce aluminum rings and the project to manufacture household utensils plated with non-stick material are distinguished by the reduction in their need for man power and the abundance of the main primary materials necessary for them in the Gulf region. [Text] [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Nov 86 p 14] 13292

CSO: 4404/141

PARTY LEADERS INTERVIEWED ON CEUTA, MELILLA

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Dec 86 pp 23-25

[Article by Ben Isa Fasi: "Moroccan Party Leaders Tell AL-MAJALLAH Spain Is Maneuvering on Ceuta and Melilla and Does Not Want a Solution; Arabs Unanimously Behind Morocco in Affirming the Arabness of the Cities"]

[Text] The resignation of Mohamed Omar Doudouh, head of the Muslim community of Melilla, from the post of adviser to the Spanish interior minister for affairs of the cities of Ceuta and Melilla and spokesman for the residents of these cities has led to a renewed heating up of the atmosphere in the streets of these cities which are ruled by the Spanish army (10,000 soldiers in Melilla alone) and to renewed disturbance of Moroccan-Spanish relations. By resigning, Doudouh wanted to express the Muslim community's rejection of the Aliens' Law imposed by the Spanish government, a law whose aim, according to the Madrid government, was to abolish "discrimination" between Spanish citizens and residents of Ceuta and Melilla. Nevertheless, the majority of residents of the two cities remain without identification papers or other registration of residence. Since the law was imposed last June, only 1,000 persons (out of a total of 27,000) have obtained identification documents allowing them to remain in the city. Those who do not carry these documents are treated as foreigners. The residents of Ceuta and Melilla are demanding a statement of the Islamic and Arab character of the two cities and that they, as Moroccan citizens first and last, be allowed to carry Moroccan identification.

This report presents the positions of the leaders of the Moroccan parties on this issue, in addition to a special interview with Mr Omar Doudouh.

In front of a toy store in the city of Melilla stood Si Mohamed, pondering the unaccustomed silence in this city known for its commercial bustle and as a crossing point between the continents of Europe and Africa, his eyes blinking, and his knees trembling. Today there is a strike; tomorrow there will be a demonstration. The day after tomorrow? Only God and those privy to the secrets of politics know. Or, to be more exact, it is to be found only in the new papers in the heavy dossier of Moroccan-Spanish politics. From conversations with leaders and heads of the Moroccan political parties, one sees that there is unanimity on the need to open dialogue with Spain about this problem that runs as a countercurrent in the calm sea separating the two neighbor states, a unanimity that is emphasized by the calm language these parties

speak on solving the problem. Moroccans say the city is Moroccan because Gadi Aiad (buried in Marrakech and one of its seven men of distinction) belonged to it. Spain says that Ceuta and Melilla were Spanish before Morocco was on the map.

From day to day the pot boils. Omar Mohamed Doudouh, leader of the Moroccans in Melilla, returns from a quick visit to Rabat. A successful 4-day strike is organized. The residents, including Si Mohamed, lock their businesses. The Madrid government pours more of its military weight into the two occupied cities. Omar Doudouh resigns from the post of adviser to the Spanish interior minister. Madrid appoints a new governor-general of Ceuta, General Andreos Casinillo, former general chief of staff of the Guardia Civil, which serves as the police. News of "the November uprising" in Ceuta and Melilla splashes over the front pages of Moroccan newspapers.

Questions and Answers

What is happening in Melilla, where 29,000 Muslim men and women live? What action are their leaders in Ceuta taking? What is the real meaning of Dr Abdellatif Filali's meeting with the Spanish ambassador, at which he reviewed with him events in the two cities?

Another question: Is it merely a protest concerning a principle of human rights? Is the matter, that is, connected with an identification paper and registration in government bureaus, or is time hiding some other departure possibly to be announced by King Hasan II of Morocco for a solution to the problem of the two occupied cities?

There are the many questions that AL-MAJALLAH took to some of the political leaders and to Mr Omar Mohamed Doudouh, whose interview with AL-MAJALLAH was the first that he has given to an Arabic magazine.

With Bouabid

AL-MAJALLAH met with three political party leaders in Rabat to find out their position on the critical situation in Melilla. The first meeting was with Mr Mati Bouabid, head of the Constitutional Union, which holds a parliamentary majority in the Moroccan Chamber of Deputies.

Bouabid says: "We addressed letters a year ago to the heads of all the Spanish political parties, from the Popular Alliance Party to the Socialist Worker's Party and the Communist Party, summoning them to a step we think corresponds to the necessities of the present period for our two countries. In Morocco and Spain there is a strong tendency toward democracy and a political pluralism marked by comprehensiveness and harmony. In our party, we believe that dialogue is synonymous with democracy, provided that this dialogue be without conditions or complications and not be preceded by ready made ideas. We have sensed a competition building up in the Spanish political arena about the fate of the two Moroccan cities, with the Spanish left beginning to try to outbid the right in extremism. We must not forget that modern

Spain has not been able to rid itself of the ideas of the past. Within these parties, as well as within the military apparatus, there are still people who dream of a return of the age of General Franco, with all its colonial thinking and imperialistic dreams. Some corpses, one is forced to say, are hard to bury. Whoever thinks that Franco's legacy has been finally overcome is wrong. In our party, we have therefore tried to create a new dynamic, and we have called this appeal 'a dialogue of moderates,' to bring out the peaceful side. Peace, in our view, is the only solution to this problem. I repeat: Morocco and Spain are destined to come to an understanding and overcome the obstacles. We hope that the Spanish people will rid themselves of their colonial vestiges without dramatics. A famous Chinese proverb comes to my mind: 'We should light a candle instead of cursing the darkness.'"

On how the Moroccan parties are dealing with the issue of Ceuta and Melilla at present and how they dealt with it in the past, Bouabid says: "The common denominator of the platforms of the national political parties and the trade union and professional organizations, notwithstanding their differences, is unanimity when it is a question of national and territorial unity, including everything that would touch on the sovereignty of Morocco. Thus, the call to liberate the cities of Ceuta and Melilla has never and shall never fall silent. Given the example of Moroccan unanimity on the Western Sahara issue, we can conclude that incorporation is a historical inevitability that we hope will be met on the part of Spain by an up-to-date political realism. The Moroccan political consensus aims at restoring the right of those who are entitled to it, so as to relieve the problem of colonialism that belongs to a different age."

Regarding the help the Arabs have given Morocco in recovering the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, Bouabid thinks: "Arab unanimity on the Ceuta and Melilla issue is a mirror reflecting Moroccan unanimity. Without exception, and in spite of one country's disagreements with another--these are ephemeral differences--the Arabs have expressed their unconditional support. Every time this issue has been raised, the Arabs have stood behind Morocco, defending the legitimacy of its historic rights. As an example of this, I can cite the recommendation by the Union of Arab Parliaments at its last session, a recommendation that angered our Spanish neighbors. Perhaps they will become angry yet again when they read the statement of the ambassador of Qatar in Madrid. Addressing the Spanish socialist government, he said, 'Now that democracy has become established in Spain, you must follow the British example in regard to Hong Kong and return Ceuta and Melilla to Morocco as soon as possible.' I believe the Qatari ambassador's statements in Spain express what the Arabs want to say in calling for the liquidation of colonialism in this area of the western wing of the Arab homeland. This is a stand Morocco cannot but prize, appreciating this profound expression of Arab unity."

Boucitta: Spain Is Dodging

In a special interview with AL-MAJALLAH, Mohamed Boucitta, leader of the Istiqlal Party, expressed his belief that: "Spain, as we see, is dodging and maneuvering, rather than taking the road leading to a solution. Ever since

we called attention to the seriousness of the situation, Spain has persisted in taking stands which it thinks will lead to erasing the traces of the two cities' connection to Morocco or their Arabness and is also taking measures against the inhabitants of the cities.

"I believe the position that Spain is taking is not in its interest or in the interest of Moroccan-Spanish relations."

Replying to the question of what he means by the "Arabness" of Ceuta and Melilla, Boucitta says: "I am not assesting the 'Arabness' of the cities of Ceuta and Melilla. They are Moroccan cities. Insofar as Morocco is within the Arab collectivity, the cities and villages that Morocco contains are Arab in nature."

Concerning the extent to which the special parliamentary session demanded by the Istiqlal Party had a role in dealing with the issue of Ceuta and Melilla, Boucitta says: "We hope it will serve as a warning to Spain. At the same time, it demonstrates the solidarity of the entire Moroccan people with its brothers who live in the two cities and who are suffering from the measures Spain is taking by ruling over them and placing them in irregular positions in regard to their residence, their livelihood, and their attachment to their Moroccanness."

Replying to a question about whether there were relations between the Istiqlal Party and Omar Doudouh, Boucitta said: "We have relations with all the residents of the area as strugglers demanding the return of Ceuta and Melilla to Morocco. We have contacts with many brothers there, but we have no special contact with Mr Doudouh."

Yazigui: A Special Session

Mr Mohamed Yazigui, from the political office of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, gives his party's view concerning what the Moroccan government is doing to confront the escalation of the situation in the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, as follows: "We blame the government, for example, because its official media of information are not talking about the situation in the two cities, bearing in mind that these media are among the channels for exerting pressure on governments and enlightening public opinion. In Spain, all the information media, including the radio, are talking about the situation in Ceuta and Melilla, and all of our citizens in the liberated northern areas know details of the course of events by way of the Spanish media."

Yazigui adds that his party's delegation in parliament "demanded a special session last summer to discuss the issue of Ceuta and Melilla, but its demand was not met." He believes, furthermore, that the government's sense of urgency is not very great. The recent visit to Madrid by Dr Abdellatif Filali, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, is not enough. (Yazigui was perhaps referring to the fact that the Moroccan minister did indeed bring up this issue with Spanish officials.)

We asked Yazigui: Do you think that what Omar Doudouh and his comrades are doing is sufficient as a movement of struggle?

[Answer] "We will not ask about 30,000 people to do more than they are able. Although they are working behind a variety of rallying cries, we support any movement whose backbone is adherence to the Moroccanness of the two occupied cities. Our brothers there believe that the form of sovereignty will be resolved only between the two states, Morocco and Spain, but that their fundamental problem is one of rights. We have therefore proposed in parliament a bill to revitalize the liberated northern areas economically, so that they can protect the backs of our citizens in the two occupied cities."

[Box, p 25]

Omar Doudouh to AL-MAJALLAH: They Treat Us Like Foreigners in Our Own Land; Ceuta and Melilla Are Moroccan Territory

Following the success of the general strike movement carried out by the residents of Melilla, AL-MAJALLAH telephoned Mr Omar Mohamed Doudouh to ask him about developments of the situation in the city. Doudouh, a citizen from Melilla, is fluent in Spanish and the rural dialect spoken by all the residents of the area surrounding Melilla. The conversation with him took place through an interpreter.

[Question] Can you clarify your position and the position of the residents of Ceuta and Melilla concerning relations with the Spanish government?

[Answer] Our position is clear and has been explained by our statements in the various media. We will continue our struggle. We will in no way call a halt. We are being treated like foreigners in our own country. Ceuta and Melilla are Moroccan territory.

[Question] Then why do you call the residents "the Muslim community"?

[Answer] All the Muslims in Ceuta and Melilla are Moroccans. Considering that this uprising is an uprising of the Moroccan Muslim populace in this region, we have not yet entered into official meetings with Moroccan authorities.

[Question] Do you think the Moroccan authorities will support you?

[Answer] According to the foreign minister's statements after his meeting with Madrid's ambassador in Rabat, it appears that Morocco supports our steps.

[Question] What about the position of the Spanish parties?

[Answer] The local parties in the two cities have demonstrated a colonial and racist position. As for the Spanish national parties, we think their position is unclear.

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KUWAITI PRESS REPORTS ON STATEMENT BY DOUDOUH

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 11 Nov 86 p 22

[Article: "Leader of Melilla Muslims, 'Madrid Tried To Buy Me!'"]

[Text] The leader of the Muslims of Melilla, Omar Mohamedi Doudouh stated to the Kuwaiti News Agency that the Spanish government in fact tried to buy him and had been engaged in deceiving the Muslims of Melilla when it appointed him adviser to the Spanish Interior Ministry for the affairs of the Muslims of Spain.

Doudouh announced his resignation from the office after a decision to this effect issued by the city's General Association of Muslims at a meeting held this morning in which about 7,000 Muslims participated. They also decided to cut off all ongoing negotiations with the Spanish government dealing with the granting of Spanish citizenship to the city's Muslims who are legally entitled to it.

He indicated that the situation within the ministry had worsened and deteriorated, especially after recent appointments, which included the highest posts in the Spanish Interior Ministry.

After the meeting just mentioned, Doudouh informed KUNA that: "My decision to resign will lead to my being subjected to persecution and prosecution. I received many telephone threats at the last minute."

He added: "My honor, my moral sense, my being an Arab, and the nature of the milieu in which I live do not allow me to shut my eyes to the discrimination and humiliation Muslims are subjected to in Melilla." He indicated that ever since taking up the post of adviser in the Interior Ministry he had been subjected to a frenzied attack, with some newspapers, at the instigation of the Interior Ministry, accusing him of exploiting the nationality issue and of striving for material gain. Some of them went even further and made innuendoes about his wife's reputation.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry stated that the ministry had known beforehand of Doudouh's decision to offer his resignation and that the ministry would announce its position on the issue and on the decisions affecting Melilla next Monday.

He made it clear that the situation in Melilla would deteriorate greatly from now on, even more than it had in the past.

Doudouh appealed to the Islamic and Arab world to support the Muslims in the Arab countries and appealed for the solidarity of the Arab states with the Muslims of this city.

He informed KUNA that, in response to a decision by the General Association of Muslims of Melilla, he intends to visit a number of Arab states to explain the situation of the Muslim community in Melilla. He asked, "How is it conceivable that we Muslims can be considered strangers and foreigners in Melilla, when it is our land?"

The General Association of Muslims of Melilla has decided to accept Doudouh's resignation from his post, which he accepted about 2 months ago.

It was also decided at the meeting to withdraw the Melilla Muslim community's representatives from the Joint Committee founded before last summer with representatives of the Muslims of Ceuta and Melilla, the Spanish Interior Ministry, and the Spanish political parties in Melilla, in order to study the situation of the Muslim communities in these two cities located in the north of Morocco and to work for its improvement and for the removal of injustices against the cities' Muslims.

Doudouh announced that the General Association had approved a resolution affirming its holding fast to an Islamic and Arab identity, bearing in mind that there was another proposal presented by a segment of those present demanding the official return of Melilla to the adjacent Moroccan province to which the city belongs historically and geographically.

The Muslims of Melilla decided to begin a general strike on the 22d of this month and to send a delegation headed by Doudouh to a number of international gatherings to explain the conditions of injustice and discrimination to which the Muslims here are being subjected at the hands of the Spanish authorities in Madrid and Melilla.

Doudouh said that the process of granting Spanish citizenship to the Muslims of Melilla is proceeding with the same slowness and hesitancy that characterized it before the formation of the Joint Committee and his appointment as adviser within the Interior Ministry, two steps that the Spanish government took basically to speed up the process and to grant citizenship to all who fulfilled the requirements specified by Spanish law.

The crisis between Spanish authorities and Christian residents of Melilla, on the one hand, and the Muslim community, on the other hand, flared up in the final months of last year, when the government began preparations for implementing the law on aliens. Its implementation was postponed for several months on account of the conflict, until it finally came into force from the first of last February.

The application of this law to the approximately 27,000 Muslims of Melilla will lead to driving the majority of them into Morocco, because the majority of them lack official papers--papers which are being withheld from thousands of Muslims who were born in this city of 67,000 inhabitants.

SPLA HIGH COMMAND LEADER AROK THON AROK INTERVIEWED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 6 Dec 86 pp 23, 24

[Interview with Major Arok Thon Arok, member of the SPLA Military and Political High Command and deputy chief of staff for administration and supply, by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Garang Is Well; We are Ready To Resume Negotiations"; London, date not given]

[Text] At a time when there is much speculation that John Garang, the leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], which is conducting the war in the south of Sudan, has been wounded or killed, AL-TADAMUN met in London with Major Arok Thon Arok, a member of the movement's military and political high command and deputy chief of staff for administration and supply, to ask him about the extent of truth in these reports and about the future of war and peace in the Sudanese South.

The conversation touched on the downing of the civilian aircraft, the halting of negotiations to end the war, the movement's sources of funding, its relations with Ethiopia, and its demand for cancellation of the defense agreements between the Sudan and Egypt and Libya.

Here is the text of the conversation:

[Question] There has recently been much talk about Garang's having been wounded or killed during certain events. Has John Garang really been wounded? Where is he now?

[Answer] Everything that has been said about this subject has no basis in truth. Dr John Garang is well and is performing his duty like any other person in the movement.

[Question] Has he not received any injury?

[Answer] Everything that has been said about his having been wounded or about the occurrence of differences within the movement is merely wishful thinking by certain people who are conscious of political and military defeat and of the defeat of their principles.

Some people are trying to tie the movement to John Garang as a person. They think that by turning the movement into a personal movement they may be able to plot against Dr John Garang's life and thus destroy the movement. But these are all illusions and fantasies. The movement is not Dr John, just as Dr John is not the movement. Dr John Garang is an individual in the movement, just like the rest of his other brothers. If some accident happens to him, the movement will continue its mission.

Those who continually talk about Dr John Garang may be dazzled by his personality, knowledge, and leadership ability. Perhaps they think that without him the movement will not continue or remain steadfast. But this is untrue talk. The movement is an integral organization. If it loses any particular individual, it will not collapse or cease from the completion of its mission.

[Question] Then what is the story of the conflicts within the SPLA?

[Answer] There are no conflicts now in movement circles. The one conflict we faced was our difference in 1983 with what in Khartoum are now called "the friendly forces." It was a difference about the direction and goals of the movement. On our side, we insisted that the movement's principal goal was the unity of the Sudan. We had already defined and diagnosed the problems existing in the country--problems related to the variety of ethnic groups and religions, unbalanced development, and lack of involvement of the regions in political power. These being the problems, we asked whether we as Sudanese could settle them once and for all. Our view was that it was possible to settle all these problems by pressing for an equal division of political power among all Sudanese. Equal division of power will allow each region to develop its resources, cultures, and economy. We said that as long as the existing problems could be solved by applying this formula, there was no justification for adopting separatist appeals. That was our view.

The other group rejected this platform and said that it rejected bearing arms for the unity of the Sudan. The South, it said, was African, the North Arab, and the twain would never meet.

We rejected such a platform and told the members of this group that we would refuse to adopt any racial or separatist appeals. We saw nothing to necessitate a call to separatism. Because of these differences, we became involved in a collision that ended with the physical liquidation of a large number of the advocates of this separatist platform. When they felt defeat, they resorted to cooperating with the very government against which they had previously taken up arms. While the government today sometimes calls them "the friendly forces," or at other times the "Anyanya-2," we call them a government militia.

That was the only difference that took place within the movement. Since that time, we have not faced any internal struggles or differences.

[Question] How then do you explain the recent arrival in Khartoum of 28 individuals from the Revolutionary Forces (Ya'qub Isma'il's group) and their talk about the existence of a struggle within the SPLA?

[Answer] The Revolutionary Forces group were not originally members of our movement. In the past, we accepted everyone who came to us and joined us. If someone did not come to us of his own volition, we did not go to him or ask him to join us. The members of the Revolutionary Forces who returned to Khartoum are people whom we do not know and who do not know us. We have merely heard about them. I suspect that Ya'qub Isma'il himself will soon return to Khartoum, according to what we hear. But this is a matter with which we have nothing to do.

[Question] The effort of war and fighting is extremely costly. How can a movement such as yours support the war on which it is embarking?

[Answer] If you mean financial support, we do not need money. We fight in the jungle. If any of us owns one or two pairs of pants, that is enough for him. There is nothing we need in the way of cash liquidity.

If you are asking about military support, we started the movement with two battalions (the 104th Battalion and the 105th Battalion). In 1983, these battalions left the Sudan with all their weapons and equipment. Since that time, a large number of soldiers from the army and individuals from the police, the prisons, and the jungles have joined us. All of them came to us with all their weapons and ammunition. Without a doubt, this is one of our important sources of armaments.

The second source of weapons is the booty we obtain during battles. We captured many weapons in the south of Blue Nile Province when we clashed with an armed forces battalion there. We took its commander, Abu-al-'Ala' Jum'ah, and his general staff prisoner. We also captured weapons at Fashala, Jabal Buma, Rumbek, and Yirol.

The third source of weapons is what we obtained in 1984 from Libya. I was one of the members of the delegation that travelled to Tripoli to negotiate about arms with the Libyan leadership. We obtained large quantities of arms from the Libyan government, beginning in December 1984, and until 6 April 1985. The weapons we obtained ranged from hand guns to SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles, with many light weapons in between.

These are our sources of weapons. We have no others.

[Question] An accusation directed at you is that you have become tied to Ethiopian decisionmaking and to Ethiopia's interest, and that you are no longer able to bring about a solution to the problem of the war in the South, except with Ethiopia's permission. What is your response?

[Answer] We have heard talk of this kind in al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statements. We find it strange that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is attacking our presence in Ethiopia, when he himself, during his time in the opposition, was also in Ethiopia. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is that we today occupy the same building that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi used to occupy as office and residence when he was in Ethiopia. The regime in Ethiopia has not changed. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stayed in the Ethiopia of Mengistu Haile-Mariam. We, too, are staying in Mengistu's Ethiopia. Why does al-Sadiq al-Mahdi permit himself to stay in Ethiopia, but forbid others to do so? Why is it permissible for al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to have taken up arms while he was in the opposition to the former regime, but forbidden for others to do the same thing?

Ethiopia has no connection with us. In 1983, when we went out into the jungle, neither Ethiopia nor Mengistu invited us to come to Ethiopia. We went there because of the problems in the South, old problems that existed even before Mengistu. When one is being pursued and is a fugitive, one seeks help from the closest person. When we came to be pursued, we found only Ethiopia to ask for help and in which to take refuge. Our taking refuge in Ethiopia was no different from al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's taking refuge there in the past, together with the members of the National Front. This is not the first time we are taking refuge in Ethiopia. During the previous round of war in the South (1955-1972), members of the Anyanya movement took refuge in Ethiopia, which subsequently had a large role in the signing of the Addis Ababa Agreement that ended that round of the war.

In short, Ethiopia does not control our decisionmaking, nor is it easy for any power to control us.

[Question] If you really want peace, why have you renewed your warnings that you will shoot down any relief airplanes that fly into the South? Is this an attempt on your part to use hunger as a weapon in the war?

[Answer] This is an established policy that has not changed. If the relief planes carry supplies, food, and medicine to only one side, we shall consider them hostile to us. Relief should be distributed to all areas and not be limited to the areas controlled by government forces. We believe the government is making use of civilian aircraft to carry soldiers and military equipment to its forces in the South.

[Question] Are you serious about negotiations?

[Answer] Yes. The peace initiative came originally from our side. We called for dialogue even during the rule of Ja'far Numayri, at a time when there was no one talking about dialogue. Had we not been serious about dialogue, we would not have called for it more than 2 years ago.

[Question] However, by downing the civilian airplane, you torpedoed the negotiations, especially since the downing of the airplane came a few days after talks in Addis Ababa between al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and John Garang and then

between a delegation from the National Grouping and one from the SPLA. After the talks, optimistic communiques were issued about the future of the dialogue. Why did you down a civilian plane, knowing that it would inevitably lead to torpedoing the dialogue between you and the government?

[Answer] First, let me emphasize that there was no connection between the downing of the aircraft and the negotiations going on between Dr Garang and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. While the negotiations were going on, there was no ceasefire. Military operations were continuing.

[Question] Do you expect the negotiations to be resumed in the near future?

[Answer] We are ready to resume the negotiations at any moment. As for the position of the other side, I cannot speak for them.

[Question] What then are the points of difference between you and the government?

[Answer] We have not yet sat down to negotiate with the government. The Kokodam Conference was between the National Grouping for the Salvation of the Homeland and us. The meeting of Dr Garang and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi took place on the basis of al-Mahdi's being leader of the Ummah Party, not on the basis of his being head of the government.

Therefore, we find it strange that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi should announce that his government is no longer bound by any agreement it reached with us, for we never negotiated with the government and never reached any agreement with it that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi might abrogate.

The only agreement we ever reached with any party was our agreement with the National Grouping, which we announced in the Kokodam communique.

[Question] What is your opinion about a solution to the problem of the war?

[Answer] The solution will be achieved only by sitting around the negotiating table. But before beginning to negotiate, we must prepare the right atmosphere for negotiations. We think that the Kokodam declaration, if carried out, will prepare the right atmosphere for negotiating to end the war.

[Question] Do the Islamic laws represent the fundamental point of difference between you and the government?

[Answer] What was stated in the Kokodam communique represents an integral package; there is no point more important than the others. We consider the September Laws part of the legacy of the now defunct regime, and we demand their removal, just as we demand the removal of all legacies of the May regime.

[Question] Some of your demands seem unrelated to the question of the South. They seem rather to be related to the demands of foreign powers. I mean the

demand for cancellation of the joint defense agreement with Egypt and the military protocol with Libya. Why do you insist on bringing up these points, instead of concentrating on other problems that have an immediate relation to the problem in the South--for example, the problems of balanced growth, legislative authority, the division of wealth, and other problems?

[Answer] As a popular movement, we have no problems with the Egyptians. In fact, we are seeking to cooperate with them. Some time ago, a delegation from the movement travelled to meet with President Husni Mubarak. Similarly, we are not making the Libyans, with whom we cooperated in the recent past, a target.

Numayri wanted the joint defense agreement in order to protect his regime. He signed it in the absence of the Sudanese people. Such agreements infringe upon the sovereignty of the state, so we demand their cancellation. We are also trying to protect ourselves, since these agreements may be used against us. We know that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is touring the Arab states and talking about how Islam and Arabism are in danger because of the war in the South. Such talk is getting a response from the Arabs. This is unfortunate, because the Sudan is not just the North of the Sudan. The Sudanese are not just the northerners or the Muslims. The Sudan includes different races and religions. We expect the Arab states to deal with us from this perspective, instead of dealing with us from a religious or racial perspective. Arabic culture combines with African culture to produce a different Sudanese culture. We are not fighting a racial or religious war. We are therefore amazed by what we hear said at times by some Arab leaders; for example, what we heard concerning Yasir 'Arafat's analysis of the war in the South of the Sudan. It is a position that we do not think fitting on the part of 'Arafat as a freedom fighter.

In any case, when we demand the cancellation of the joint defense agreements, we are not serving the purposes of foreign states.

12937/12795

CSO: 4504/79

SPLA BATTLE REPORTS

Government Trucks, Tanks Destroyed

EA301859 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Bari 1120 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpt] An SPLA unit in Upper Nile region has confronted a government force, which include 14 trucks and four tanks. The government force was attempting to escort some boats from Malakal to Kosti. The encounters [date not specified] took place at Malek, Cui and Anyayo, and were fought on land and in the water. [Word indistinct] government soldiers were killed, and only four trucks returned to Malakal.

71 Government Troops Killed

EA271447 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpt] SPLA units of Koriom Task Force carried out a successful ambush on the enemy troops near Mongalla on 21st December 1986. Correspondents say that well over 71 enemy soldiers were killed and many others were wounded. One magirus truck, one APC and one lorry of the enemy were all destroyed.

SPLA Raids Pibor Town

EA272148 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Latest reports from Pibor say that an SPLA force that raided Pibor town in the morning of 23d December was challenged by elements of the Khartoum Government's militia of Ismail (Konyi). Five enemy militiamen were killed and six others injured in the ensuing clash, which ended after the enemy was repulsed back into the town. Our correspondent says remnants of the enemy force fled to their homes. Meanwhile, the rest ran back to the trenches of the enemy garrison in Pibor.

Government Troops Killed, Wounded

EA281616 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army
in English 1300 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpt] An SPLA task force under the command of 1st lieutenant Bol Akot of Shark Battalion raided and shelled enemy positions at (yeiri) on 20 December 1986, killing and wounding many enemy soldiers and burning down a number of buildings. According to a Radio SPLA correspondent in the area, an unidentified enemy officer with the rank of 1st lieutenant and a Sergeant by the name of Mohammad Hasan were among those killed.

Recent Battle Successes

EA291759 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army
English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpts] SPLA units of Abu Hawk battalion and Nuba Mountain Task Force commanded by Captain Moses (Viwe) launched a surprise attack on Malakal town, on 20th December, 1986. Fifty-nine enemy soldiers were killed, 31 from the army, 24 from the wildlife and four from the police. One of the policemen killed was identified as Simon (Shiltut).

A special crack unit of Fashoda Battalion operating in Malakal town successfully destroyed one steamer at the river port in Malakal, on the 12th December, 1986, using hand-grenades.

/12624

CSO: 4500/44

SUNA CITES AL-MAHDI STATEMENT ON IRAN VISIT

Captives to be Released

JN211106 Kkhartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum 21 Dec (SUNA)--Iran has agreed to release all the Sudanese captives detained during the Gulf war, prime minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said.

Al-Mahdi who was speaking to reporters Saturday enroute to Khartoum said that Iran had agreed to release all the 40 Sudanese detainees and that fifteen of them were now released.

He added that the Iranian move in this respect came in recognition to the democratic change occurred in Sudan in April 1985.

Al-Mahdi described his visit to Iran as fruitful and valuable and expressed hope that Iranian-Sudanese relations would set an example for other Muslim countries.

Al-Mahdi said that his visit was successful and the two sides agreed to exchange experiments in all spheres.

He noted that Iran had decided to cancel the profits of Iran's due debts to Sudan inherited from the defunct regime and which were totalling some 70 million dollars.

Al-Mahdi added that despite Iran's harsh economic conditions it consented that debts to be paid within ten years and in certain crops. He indicated that they had agreed that Iran purchase from Sudan more than half million of sorghum sacks and quantities of sesame and edible oil.

On the cultural field al-Mahdi said that the two sides had agreed to exchange scholarships in petroleum, mining, electricity, industry and academic studies fields. He added that they also agreed to exchange experiments in the cultural and information spheres.

Al-Mahdi said that he had presented to the Iranian officials an integrated plan to terminate the Iranian-Iraqi war and that the Iranian officials had paid due concern to the plan and promised to seriously consider it. He added that he had proposed to Iranian side a seven point charter in order to work out a formula of the historical difference between the Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims sects.

al-Mahdi has returned here Saturday evening concluding a four day official visit to Iran where he had talks with the Iranian officials on bilateral relations at the end of which a joint protocol was signed.

Prime Minister Returns

JN211149 Khartoum KUNA in English to KUNA KUWAIT 1030 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Dec (KUNA)--Sudanese Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned here last night after a four-day visit to Tehran, and said in an arrival statement that "a big market has now been opened with Iran."

He added agreements have been reached on military, economic and cultural cooperation and said in addition to petroleum products Iran will be providing Sudan with tractors, fertilizers and five hundred buses.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, al-Mahdi said "We have explained our conceptions over the conflict and the Iranians promised to study the details." He did not elaborate.

The prime minister disclosed that an agreement has been reached on lowering the interest rate on an Iranian loan provided to the regime of deposed President Ja'far Numayri and that settlement will be in the form of Sudan produce.

Al-Mahdi brought back in his plane 15 Sudanese prisoners of war who were detained in Iran. Asked about the fate of the others, al-Mahdi said he prefers not to discuss the issue. Al-Mahdi's refusal to comment strengthens the viability of earlier reports that Iran would not release those who took part in actual fighting alongside the Iraqi troops.

An Iranian official who visited Khartoum earlier this year said the release of those prisoners before the war comes to an end would be offending to the Iranian people.

In his statement al-Mahdi said Iran will pick 500,000 tons of sorghum and 100,000 tons of sesame, adding that scholarships have been arranged for 100 Sudanese students in Iranian universities and higher educational institutes.

He said agreements were also reached on opening information offices in both countries as well as strengthening broadcasting transmission between Sudan and Iran.

/12624

CSO: 4500/44

BRIEFS

FOREIGN AID--The Chinese Red Cross has provided medical equipment valued at 200,000 Chinese Yuan as a present to the Sudanese Red Crescent, Majdhub Talhah, secretary general of the Sudanese Red Crescent, has announced. He added that the Norwegian Red Cross has also provided a Christmas present in the form of two planeloads of relief supplies and medicines, in addition to equipment for local development projects in (Sinkat), supported by the Norwegian Red Cross. The two planes will arrive at Khartoum airport next Thursday. [Text] [Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 86 EA] /12624

FRG, KUWAIT EXTEND AID--Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)--Chairman of Roads and Bridges Public Corporation 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Habur said that an agreement had been reached with the Federal Republic of Germany for the maintenance of Al-Duwaym-Rabak highway to be effective at the beginning of 1986. Habur told the daily AL-SUDANI that his corporation had received loans of 10.5 million and 6 million dinars from Kuwait development fund and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development respectively. The loans are to [be] earmarked for the purchase of new machinery needed for the resumption of work in (.sinnar)-Sinjah highway. Habur added that his corporation is looking forward to receiving further funds needed for the construction of strategic highways in the Sudan to connect the central and southern parts of the country. He also expressed the readiness of his corporation to participate in constructing Omdurman-Dunqulah highway which connects the northernmost parts of the country with the national capital Khartoum. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 22 Dec 86 JN] /12624

KOREAN TRUCKS DONATED--Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)--The Republic of Korea has granted Sudan sixty trucks to the Ministry of Agriculture to be used in different fields of agriculture next season. An official source in the Foreign Ministry said here today the trucks will arrive at Port Sudan port during the coming days. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 22 Dec 86 JN] /12624

NETHERLANDS AID DONATION--Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)--The Netherlands has extended to Sudan a donation worth 80 million Netherlands guilders, which corresponds to \$35 million, as aid for 1987. An agreement in this regard was signed here today, Monday, between the two governments. Dr Sayyid 'Ali Ahmad zaki, secretary of planning of the Finance and Economic Planning Ministry, signed for Sudan and (Kandar Khaj), head of the north and northeast African countries department of the Netherlands Foreign Ministry, signed for the Netherlands. [Excerpt] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 22 Dec 86 JN] /12624

CSO: 4500/44

EDITOR DISCUSSES PAPER'S STANDING IN GULF

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Sep 86 pp 52, 53

[Interview with Ahmad Kamal, chief editor of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: "Our Journalistic Standard is Higher Than Others"]

[Text] Ahmad Kamal, distinguished Bahraini journalist, during a business trip to London, was interviewed at length by AL-MAJALLAH about journalism and politics. He is editor-in-chief of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, the only daily in Bahrain, which also publishes the English-language GULF DAILY NEWS.

It can be said that a journalist is distinguished from other professionals because he is on the job 24 hours. He is a journalist when he eats, when he sleeps, and when he travels. Even when interviewed, he poses questions instead of answering them. That was the case with the colleague from Bahrain who insisted on inquiring about the expatriate press, or the press abroad, to be more exact. After some give and take, neither we were convinced nor was he. We asked him:

[Question] Why has AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ remained the only [Arabic daily] in Bahrain?

[Answer] AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ was published in 1976. Even though Bahrain is a country of ancient civilization that goes back to the days of the Phoenicians and Delmons, and even though it boasts a large number of educated and cultured people, journalistic ranks in Bahrain, when available, need financial support. No country can express itself except through its own press and its own journalists. Yet, the publication of a second daily in Bahrain is being seriously considered. Whenever Minister of Information Tariq al-Mu'ayid sees something in AKHBAR AL-KYALIJ that he does not like he warns us that the other newspaper would be coming out soon. Actually, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ welcomes any new publication, be it daily or weekly. We seek honest competition because only through competition can journalism prosper and develop.

[Question] Aren't there non-Bahraini newsmen working in Bahrain? What is your paper's circulation?

[Answer] It is rare to find a non-Bahraini working on an Arab publication. The staff of English-language publications are mostly British with perhaps

one or two Indians. As to circulation, our paper sells 20,000 copies plus subscriptions.

[Question] Isn't this too small?

[Answer] Maybe. It is good circulation considering the influx of foreign press and the number and composition of the population. It is good also in view of the national stance of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ.

[Question] We read someplace that your paper's circulation in Bahrain is second to that of a paper originating in a sister country in the Gulf.

[Answer] This is absolutely not true. At that time, the circulation of the paper in question did not exceed 3,000 copies and has since dropped.

[Question] How about financial aid from the government? How does this affect the freedom of the press?

[Answer] I would like to remind you that we, in Bahrain, are quite different from neighboring states where some papers receive from some governments yearly financial aid that covers almost all their expense. The annual Bahraini government subsidy to AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ is no higher than 40,000 Bahraini dinars in return for which the various government departments and agencies receive complimentary subscriptions. At any rate, no subsidy or lack thereof could limit the freedom of our press. The paper, as I mentioned, follows a certain line. Its major concern is local news. In this context, the paper practices its freedom, responsibility of course. We criticize, but constructively. If a minister makes a mistake we say so. If he does well, we commend. We could be criticizing a minister today and applauding him tomorrow. Criticism in AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ is accomplishment driven. Several ministers complained on various occasions to the Emir or the Crown Prince who, on being apprised of the facts, told me to continue to criticize. The paper has never been confiscated, closed, or repressed. As we criticize others, we allow them to criticize us. We provide enough space in the paper for others to respond to our reports and editorials in complete freedom. When a university professor responded to an article, I never read it but immediately sent it to press. Of course I read it after publication and refuted it point by point. Even the publishers themselves do not interfere in the editorial content over which the editor and his staff have the first and final say.

[Question] And yet, the Bahraini press seems to have a lower standard than others in the Gulf. Why?

[Answer] Maybe only in size and the level of spending. I am comparing AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ to its sister publications in the Gulf. We have two pages of sports, for instance, while they have four. And the same goes for the economy. But when it comes to editorial quality and journalistic services, I don't at all think that our standard lags. Besides, our emphasis is on domestic Bahraini news. The domestic news of other states is the responsibility

of their own publications. No other Bahraini publication could possibly compete with me on local coverage. Our coverage of Arab and international news is of the highest caliber because we never go to press before two o'clock in the morning, our deadline. One day, for example, all Gulf publications except ours carried statements by and pictures of Bashir al-Jumayyil. Our banner carried the news of his assassination. We were the only paper in the Gulf to carry the news of his death.

[Question] What are the interests and concerns of the Bahraini reader?

[Answer] The truth is, our reader is mainly interested in the problems of family and of living. Housing was of interest when it was a problem in Bahrain. Other than that, reader interest is usually focused on jobs, salaries, electricity, water, and other aspects of living. The Bahraini is a serious reader who is also highly interested in Gulf affairs and Arab causes but who is not concerned one way or another about women's and feminist issues. After Lady Diane's wedding, we ran a feature on her upbringing, education, hobbies, life-style, clothes, etc. We were inundated by mail asking us to ignore such trifling pieces of no interest to the reader. Our response was that it is not good to be constantly dour and vice versa.

12945/12851

CSO: 4404/117

STUDY SHOWS PROGRESS IN WOMEN'S STATUS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Sep 86 pp 48, 49

[Article: "A Study of Bahraini Women by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Finds Them Superior to Males in Secondary Schools and Finds Illiteracy Receding"]

[Text] Many believe that the Bahraini woman is fortunate because of her various accomplishments in such fields as labor, education, and homemaking and because of her participation in the causes of her society. The distinguished position of Arab women has recently prompted the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to conduct a social and economic study of Bahraini women in cooperation with the Economic Committee for West Asia (ECWA) and the Lebanese Society for Consulting and Research. The study highlighted the role of Bahraini women in the home, society, and the workplace.

The study focused initially on defining the factors and variables that impact on Bahraini women, individual attitudes towards women, and the interaction between these factors.

The study showed that Bahrain has gone the extra mile to educate its women as is evidenced by the high ratio of their school enrollment, the high level of their learning accomplishment, and the decline of illiteracy among women of all ages. The ratio of school tardiness has also decreased among women. The study pointed out, however, that despite noticeable progress, there still remains a large educational gap between men and women.

The study showed that the percentage of school enrollment among girls is lower in all age groups than among boys. The gap between the two sexes, which has narrowed greatly in the 1970s, has continued to narrow from 1981 to 1983 as the enrollment of women in all levels of education has been disproportionately higher than males.

The study also shows that illiteracy has begun to recede and continues to decrease in Bahrain. Illiteracy, however, still plagues a large segment of society and its ratio among women is double that among men.

The study pointed out that women are less tardy in school than men in all stages of schooling, specially secondary school. Young men tend to be laxier at this stage of their lives.

Female enrollment in schools was found to be negatively affected by family size--the larger the family the less the tendency to enroll. School accomplishment tended to be proportionate with family income and the level of accomplishment by young men in the family.

The study attributes female dropouts in Bahrain first to marriage and then to the lack of desire to pursue an education. One third of female dropouts was found to be in secondary schools at the age when women get ready to marry or work.

The joint study also dealt with women work attitudes. Its most significant finding was that educating women is an absolute prerequisite to enlisting them in the labor force. Women working outside the home account for 13.2 percent of all working Bahrainis and for 19 percent of economically significant workers. A large percentage of women working outside the home were found to have completed primary or higher education. A large percentage of women occupy administrative and government jobs, especially in teaching and in administration in the private sector. Public sector administrative and other departments absorb some two thirds of the total female work force, mostly in the cities.

The study points out that nearly half of working women have never been married. The percentage of married working women shows a sharp drop after age 30, probably because women stop working after marriage, their first birth, or after having a number of children.

While the cost of living was found to be the motive for work among women in low income families, other considerations play a very important role in why women of high income families seek employment. Such considerations include the high educational level of women and the modernization of family social outlooks. Improving the standard of living is the basic work incentive for married women while receiving a qualifying degree is the incentive for unmarried women.

The study also finds that some 50 percent of working Bahraini women contribute part of their income towards family expenses while 20 percent dedicate their entire income to personal expenditure. Unmarried women have far more discretion in income disposal than married women. The percentage of women workers who use their entire income for personal use increases in proportion to the rise in family income as a whole.

As far as the family position of the Bahraini woman, the study found positive indications of her status that are in keeping with developments on all levels of Bahraini society, the rising educational level of women, and with increasing female entry into the labor force and participation in social and cultural activities in Bahrain.

The joint study finds continuous improvement in the housing and familial conditions of Bahraini women while conservatism still prevails with regard

to lodging and housing. The negative element here is the degree of over-crowding in residential dwellings. With the exception of the noticeable shortage of sewers in certain areas of Bahrain, most homes have satisfactory basic amenities with little difference between town and village.

The study finds that the size of the Bahraini family is still relatively large and that families are more likely to be larger in the villages than in the cities.

The study also highlights the great change in the status of the Bahraini family. The number of single people has increased and the marriage age is now higher for both sexes. Marriage has also undergone some change even though the process is by and large conservatively traditional. This also depends on the couple's level of education and income and the place of residence.

Polygamy turned out to be fairly limited and on the decline. The higher a man's educational and income levels the less inclined he is to take another wife.

On the other hand, the study shows that most divorces in Bahrain result from irreconcilable differences. Divorces caused by inability to bear children or by desire to marry another woman were found to be 9.6 and 6.9 percent, respectively.

The study found that divorce has an incense relationship to the educational status of the head of the family up to the secondary level but tends to increase amongst those with higher degrees.

The study also proved without a doubt that early marriage is more prone to failure; that a working woman is more likely to get divorced than a nonworking woman; and that marriage through a matchmaker is more likely to fail than if the couple were introduced through family and friends.

A positive image emerges of the level of Bahraini woman's awareness of her role in doing social work especially after the great strides she has made in education and in the labor force in Bahrain.

12945/12851
CSO: 4404/117

SITUATION ON TURKISH BORDER DESCRIBED AS NORMAL

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 20 Dec 86 pp 15-16

[Article by Ibrahim al-Burjawi: "All Quiet on The Turkish-Iraqi Border"]

[Text] The propellers of the American Bell helicopter were rotating at the Muthanna Airport in Baghdad in preparation for a 2-hour 560 km flight from the center of Iraq to Zakhu near the Iraqi-Turkish-Syrian border triangle. With the propellers' rotations, thoughts were going through my mind about the reasons for this air tour organized by the Ministry of Culture and Information with the political guidance department in the Ministry of Defense for Arab and foreign media correspondents (press-radio-TV) in Iraq. The first thing to come to mind was a news item carried just a day before by the various Iranian media about a military victory scored by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with the help of Kurdish rebels who are allied with the Iranian regime through raids inside Iraqi territory in the northern region of Zakhu opposite the Turkish border which resulted, according to the Iranians, in the blowing up of the "Fish Khabur" oil pumping station and the demolition of the Ibrahim Khalil bridge that joins the two Turkish-Iraqi border-crossing points, in addition to severing the international road to Turkey travelled by Iraqi oil tanker trucks. Notwithstanding that our press experience with Iranian news about the course of the Gulf war attests to the fact that such news is exaggerated and has much more imagination and wishful thinking than fact, the gravity of this news item in particular aroused our desire to know the truth, particularly in view of our awareness of the importance to Iraq of this vital economic artery which Iran allegedly cut off. Iraq exports 1,050,000 barrels a day through the oil juncture of the Iraqi-Iranian borders in the Iraqi far north. Moreover, traffic in this area and across the Ibrahim al-Khalil Bridge and the international road leading to it is estimated at 2,000 vehicles a day, mostly Turkish oil tankers carrying Iraqi oil to Turkish territory to augment the amount of oil pumped via the pipeline that carries Iraqi oil to its outlets on the Turkish coast.

Although the flight took off early in the morning, the beautiful scenery we were able to see through the plane's windows awakened us physically and mentally. No sooner had we crossed the skies of the capital of Baghdad going north toward Mosul than our eyes delighted at the sight of vast green fields adorned with green rivers, brooks, streams, ponds and lakes, in addition to

water reflecting the fertility of this good land extending as far as the eye could see and sometimes crossed by green mountains, thick forests and heights and hills of different colors ranging from dust to red to gray to black, which, as a geological engineer later told us, point to the presence of minerals and precious stones in these rocks, such as marble, copper, phosphate and iron. At the foot of these mountains and heights and amid the vast plains villages, small towns and farms are scattered in the expanse with boundless herds of sheep at their fringes roaming happily and assured of a constant supply of food. Throughout the entire round trip we could see tractors and cars occupied and escorted by men who seemed to be engineers going back and forth across these plains that have been divided into pieces of various geometric shapes, some rectangular and others square or triangular, with each piece assuming a different color than the one next to it, an indication that topographic operations are constantly being undertaken in these territories to determine their areas and to study the soil and underground resources.

An agricultural engineer told me that Iraqi leadership had embarked on a development and resource exploitation plan for northern Iraq which began yielding positive results when peace was established in these areas following the 1975 Algiers treaty Iraq signed with the former ruler of Iran, Shah Reza Pahlavi. This was an ambitious plan because not only did it provide for Iraq's agricultural and mineral needs, but also for those of almost the entire Arab nation as well. Therefore, this Iraqi expert believes that America was upset with the Shah for making an agreement with Iraq to quell the Kurdish rebellion that impeded growth in this area which is rich not only in fertile land and minerals, but also with beautiful scenery and marvelous weather which would have made it a primary tourist and resort area for the Gulf Arabs. And since America and its ally, Israel, are averse to anything that is bound to buttress the strength of Iraq, and consequently the Arab nation, the Iranian regime that replaced the Shah, right after consolidating its power following a period of calm during which many projects still enjoyed by the people of north Iraq were realized, set out to encourage the saboteurs to undertake their sabotage operations. Although the saboteurs in the north have returned to their terrorist activities, planning for total development is still in process, helped by the awareness of the inhabitants who supported the Iraqi leadership under President Saddam Husayn, particularly after their region attained autonomy.

Going back to our trip, the first thing we did in Zakhu where we arrived at noon was to visit the military command of the 38th Division, known as the 'Umar Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz Forces of the Iraqi 5th Corps, commanded by Staff General Diya'-al-Din Jamal. The first meeting was with deputy commander Brigadier General Shakir Mahmud Shakir who explained to us that his division's mission was to protect the oil metering station, the international road and the bridge that joins the two Iraqi-Turkish border crossing points over the Khabur River.

Brig Gen Shakir said: "I will only tell you that we have total control over every inch of our sector and that we have not witnessed any military operations, neither in this area nor along our borders with Iran 200 km away, located in rugged mountainous areas. As for sabotage operations by those who

have been lured by the Iranians, they are very limited and recently there has been no sign of them in our area. Moreover, we have not come under any air raids and enemy planes have not flown over our territory.

"Anyway, I invite you to witness first hand the stability and peace in Zakhu itself, the normal flow of traffic on the international road, the normal operation of the oil metering station and the uninterrupted crossing of the Ibrahim al-Khalil bridge that joins our borders to the Turkish borders. Then we would like you to join us for lunch."

[Question] Then how do you explain the Iranians' claims?

[Answer] I think they are attempts aimed at causing confusion similar to the allegations about blowing up the main pumping station of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline in Kirkuk. Perhaps these allegations are an attempt to cover up their scandal of dealing with what they call the great Satan and the little Satan, America and Israel.

From there we went to visit the metering station located on the Turkish-Iraqi borders. We inspected it and read its meters and found that it was operating normally. The technical director of this station, Engineer Nasir Kamil Hannah, explained to us how it worked, emphasizing that ever since he took over the station's management in 1982, he had not witnessed any military or sabotage acts and that work was proceeding normally. We proceeded to Ibrahim al-Khalil bridge where we saw hundreds of trucks in a long convoy crossing the bridge in strict order, carrying oil to Turkey. From our position on the bridge where Iraqi flags were flown, we saw the Turkish border security point at the end of the bridge in turn flying its flag.

On the international road linking Iraq to this bridge, we walked for about half an hour watching the heavy traffic in both lanes, mostly Turkish and Iraqi trucks carrying oil and other goods.

Our tour ended at the city of Zakhu itself where we toured the streets and shopped for famous northern produce such as cheeses, milk products and nuts, including walnuts, almonds and others. Everything in the city pointed to stability and normalcy. Stores were wide open, schools were receiving students, cars were passing by and everyone seemed to be engaged in normal activity because the area is very rich in resources and is always bustling.

12502

CSO: 4404/151

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DESCRIBES VARIOUS NEW PROJECTS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Dec 86 p 6

[Interview with 'Adnan Dawud Salman, Minister of Local Government, by Sa'ib 'Abd-al-Muhsin: "Many Projects To Serve the Citizens: Baghdad Day on 21 April"]

[Text] Through its executive agencies spread about in all the governorates, the Ministry of Local Government is carrying out many service projects in the seats of the governorates, districts, subdistricts, villages and rural areas. A number of these projects, which have included preparatory, intermediate and primary schools, production schools, kindergartens and health and other service centers, have been carried out this year.

In order to learn about the activities the ministry is undertaking at this time when our people are standing up to Khomeyni's Zionist criminals, AL-THAWRAH held this interview with Mr 'Adnan Dawud Salman, the minister of local government, so that he could introduce us to the magnitude of the projects the ministry is undertaking and their importance to the life of the citizens.

AL-THAWRAH: What are the service projects the ministry is proceeding to carry out throughout the country's governorates?

Numerous Water and Sewer Projects

The minister: In the context of the General Water and Sewer Organization, work is continuing properly at high rates to carry out the projects which are under construction in order to bring water to the most remote villages throughout the country's governorates, continue work on laying water systems to new sections and install new water complexes and sewer projects. The number of projects carried out this year comes to 14.

The number of projects on which there still is construction comes to 129.

A number of important projects have been carried out throughout the governorates. These are the construction of 15 clean water gathering units with a capacity of 1,136 cubic meters per day which serve the center of the city of

Basrah and are distributed among three sectors. Twelve gathering units have also been constructed with a capacity of 52,800 cubic meters per day; these serve the city of al-Qurnah and the towns of Abu al-Khasib, al-Shu'aybah and al-Zubayr. The Shatt al-'Arab water system has been built with a length of 8 kilometers and water has been brought to al-Harithah, in addition to the construction of 25 gathering units with a productive capacity of 110,000 cubic meters per day. The al-Nashwah water system, 23 kilometers long, has been built, and the first and second stages of the Basrah sewer project have been constructed, with a length of 40 kilometers and a transmission capacity of 116 cubic meters per day.

The al-Kuwayr water project has been built in the Governorate of Irbil. This consists of two stages, with a length of 104 kilometers per stage. The project serves the seat of al-Kuwayr district and the villages and ordinary sections belonging to it. There also has been the construction of the water project of the Farraj villages, which consists of two stages, the first 49 kilometers and the second 51 kilometers in length. The Irbil water system has been constructed, with a length of 48 kilometers.

In al-Ta'mim Governorate, sedimentation basins have been constructed for the Kirkuk water project and the 53-kilometer al-Huwayjah water system has been built, while the rainwater system has been extended to the city of Kirkuk.

In Nineveh Governorate, the main site allocated for Mosul water system lines has been prepared and the al-Hamdaniyah section system has been constructed, 107 kilometers in length.

In Salah-al-Din, work on construction of the Balad water project is continuing this year; 92 kilometers in length, its capacity will come to 23,000 cubic meters a day. It will serve the sections of Balad, al-Ishaqi and Yathrib and the villages adjacent to them. As for the Takrit sewer project, which comes to 140 kilometers in length and whose maximum capacity is 22,000 cubic meters, that will serve the city of Kirkuk and some districts and subdistricts subordinate to it.

In the Governorate of al-Najaf, the al-Kufah and al-'Abbasiyah water [projects] have been constructed, at a capacity of 4 million gallons a day. They consist of six tanks, five pumping lines and two ground reservoirs in addition to sedimentation basins, side filters and sterilization equipment. The unified al-Kufah project, which contains 12 sedimentation basins, 64 filters, six ground reservoirs and a booster station, in addition to three pumping tanks and lines, has been built. In addition, the Najaf-Kufah sewer project has been built, in two stages, the first and second, with a length of 200 kilometers and a pumping capacity of 1,000 cubic meters in the second stage alone.

In the Government of Diyala, the Baladriz water [project], with a capacity of 9,240 cubic meters per day, has been carried out. The project serves the Baladriz subdistrict and 19 villages adjacent to it. There is the construction of the second part of the rainwater drain system in the city of Ba'qubah, 5,800 meters long, which serves the city of Ba'qubah, in addition to the construction of the third stage of the Kan'an water pipe system, 61

kilometers long, serving the section and village of Kan'an and the military sections in it.

In Karbala' Governorate, the Karbala' water project was constructed with a capacity of 1,000 cubic meters per day, serving the city of Karbala' and the villages and sections adjacent to it, along with the Karbala' sewer project, with a length of 68 kilometers and a capacity of 48,000 cubic meters.

Streets and Parks

With respect to the general department of municipalities, which is carrying out service projects, that is, the paving of streets and the construction of sports villages and parks, in addition to direct construction activities within the governorates and the construction of internal streets in the various governorates and work on sidewalks for them, 14 projects have been constructed in the current year throughout the country's governorates.

The number of projects under construction has come to 59.

Great Attention to Public Libraries

AL-THAWRAH: What is the ministry's plan to develop public libraries?

The minister: At the outset, I would like to point to the statement by the president and commander, Saddam Husayn: "We do not want to put a book in a library; rather, we want to move the book into life and strengthen it and develop it with life."

The ministry devotes great attention to public libraries, because they are a criterion of the advancement of nations and their desire to acquire knowledge and follow up on the achievements and developments the scientific resurgence in the world has realized in the various areas of life. Their spread, their good organization and ease in patronizing them are proof of the people's culture and the regime's love of and belief in the importance of science and the construction of the personality of the new man, the new man of the revolution, the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Attention to public libraries means attention to the ideas of the people and response to their various cultural needs. This acquires importance and makes them fit to be the people's schools.

The ministry has an ambitious plan through the medium of its program, which is to increase libraries so that there will be a public library in every district, subdistrict and village, and not just the governorate seats. The ministry is also interested in children's libraries and in putting them in general application throughout the governorates, along the lines of the children's libraries in al-Rusafah and al-Karkh, the construction of new library buildings conforming to modern library specifications and facilities, and provision of libraries with modern technological descriptive facilities such as audiovisual recording equipment, exhibition rooms and modern files.

A higher board for libraries has been formed in the ministry's general office. The board's connection has been technically severed from the Ministry

of Culture and Information and it has been made technically, administratively and financially subordinate to the Ministry of Local Government. The ministry is also increasing the proportion of specialized library personnel assuming the responsibility of working in the public libraries, devoting attention to circulating libraries in the villages and rural areas and concentrating on the role of libraries in helping to advance development plans in the country by increasing the specialized libraries within the public library.

The ministry has prepared a plan to hold special conferences on libraries. Last March the first national conference of secretaries of public libraries belonging to the Ministry of Local Government was held under the watchword of the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, "Books strengthen the power of the gunbarrel," and a number of recommendations were adopted.

The number of libraries throughout the country, including Baghdad, now totals 156.

AL-THAWRAH: Does the ministry have a plan in regard to increasing the proportion of the governorates' educational personnel? What is its most conspicuous features?

Providing the Elementary Schools' Need for Personnel

The minister: I would like to point out that the ministry is continuing with its plan to increase the number of people admitted to the male and female teachers' institutes and schools, in order to provide the needs of primary schools in the rural areas and villages for educational personnel. This is being done in coordination with the Ministry of Education, in order to fill the currently existing gaps of local education personnel. A study has also been set out in coordination with the Ministry of Education to open special departments in female teachers' institutes to prepare specialized female educators for kindergartens and emphasize to the general departments of education that females currently working in these kindergarten positions not be assigned to primary schools, since they have obtained the necessary expertise in the area of children's education. It is also intending to restrict admission to the private educational institute to girls in the governorates, instead of personnel in the capital, Baghdad, in order to fill positions in kindergartens with the people from the governorates themselves. In addition, followup is continuing concerning the development and augmentation of the number of productive schools and agricultural and manual occupation schools, and attention to this type of school, village and rural area.

The ministry is seeking to eliminate duplication among schools or put them under a single administration, to eliminate problems which might arise as a result of the presence of two schools with two directors in a single building. In addition, the merger of schools has saved a substantial number of educational and labor positions as well.

AL-THAWRAH: What about educational courses to bring about an increase in the ratio of requisite educational personnel?

The minister: There are educational courses concerning which announcements will soon be made, in accordance with new rules. This task has been assigned

to the Ministry of Education, and it will make the preparations and set out the conditions for it.

AL-THAWRAH: What about the academic achievements?

The minister: The Ministry of Local Government has allocated 400 academic chairs to the universities of Baghdad, al-Mustansariyah, Basrah, Salah al-Din and Mosul, apportioned to male and female teachers who have graduated from teachers' schools and institutes and the educational course. The period of academic leave in the chairs will be 4 years, for acquisition of a bachelor's degree in education. This quota has been set out for the governorates according to the percentage of male and female teachers in them. The autonomy region's share of these chairs is 150. In addition, the number of leaves which have been granted this year to male and female teachers for higher studies, the master's degree, have come to 16. One should bear in mind that the ministry's share of academic leaves for receipt of bachelor's degrees the past academic year, 1985-86, was 250; this year it was increased to 400 academic chair leaves.

Construction of Numerous Schools

AL-THAWRAH: What about the opening of new schools at the kindergarten, elementary, intermediate and secondary levels and the numbers admitted in the academic year 1986-87, and also the expansion in other services?

The minister: In the academic year 1985-86, 131 schools were opened, and 128 new schools were opened in the current academic year, 1986-87, to accommodate the expansion which has occurred in education, since 476,895 children were admitted for 1986-87. In the area of kindergartens the number of kindergartens in the country's governorates came to 589 the past academic year, that is, an increase of 38 over last year.

The number of new kindergartens which were opened in the current academic year came to 53. In the context of primary, intermediate and secondary school buildings, 132 schools and various buildings of six, 12, 18 and 24 classrooms were constructed. In addition, 86 other buildings were built, including laboratories and their special requirements in the form of fields for athletic games and furniture.

As for other services and health centers, 10 main and branch health centers with 18 inpatient sections have been constructed, distributed throughout the country's governorates, along with 44 kindergartens, 37 young people's centers and clubs and five nurseries.

AL-THAWRAH: Do administrative institutes exist to prepare personnel to occupy positions of deputy governor, director of subdistrict or director in the departments belonging to the ministry? Are there vocational centers for training intermediate personnel to maintain and operate modern water projects?

An Institute To Prepare Administrators and Technicians

The minister: I would like to talk about the administrative institute, whose construction and entry into use was delayed for a long period, until the

Ministry of Local Government was created. The law on the institute, bearing the number 190 for 1978, was passed when the Ministry of the Interior was responsible for local government affairs. This law was not carried out, and its execution and entry into application in effect continued to be delayed, until the Ministry of Local Government was created in accordance with Law 164 for 1979, and it was binding on the ministry to be serious about developing and accrediting the people affiliated with it to meet its need for competent skilled personnel. A new law on the administrative institute was indeed issued, given the number 37 for 1986. The new law had the goal of realizing the objectives which the previous law had not adopted. Among the most prominent of these basic goals was the preparation of administrators and technicians to assume charge of positions in the agencies of the ministry, with the titles of deputy governor, municipality director, director of governorate municipalities, director of water and sewers and director of the passenger transportation agency, while organizing academic courses, seminars and sessions for administrative leaders and technicians in the ministry.

The law established the conditions for admission to the course. The most important of these is the course on the preparation and accreditation of subdistrict directors, which will be for a period of 1 year. The period of study in the institute is 1 academic year, after which the graduate is given a certificate which qualifies him in the area of his specialization.

As for the administration of the institute, a council which includes the deputy minister of local government for administrative affairs, the chairman of the general water and sewer organization, the dean of the Faculty of Law and Politics at Baghdad University, the managing directors of planning and followup and the local government inspection board in the Ministry of Local Government, the director general of the judiciary institute and a representative of the national center for consultation and administrative development is in charge of supervising the institute.

The council is involved in a group of areas of specialization which are embodied in setting out plans for organizing the affairs of the institute, developing it, supervising the execution of affairs, specifying the nature of academic programs, training and accreditation courses, seminars and classes bearing on specific training and field visits for people belonging to the training courses, and also getting some people belonging to the institute to participate in courses outside the country for the purpose of acquiring expertise.

On the subject of the building belonging to the institute, that is proceeding at good rates, and work on it will end at the time scheduled for it. The building will consist of lecture halls, workshops, applied laboratories and shops. It also contains a real model of an integrated water purification project for purposes of training. The institute also contains dormitories for trainees coming from governorates throughout the country.

As for the occupational center belonging to the general water and sewer organization, that is engaged in the graduation of intermediate technical personnel to operate and maintain the water stations and the task of setting out annual plans for opening training courses to raise the competence of the people operating the purification projects and gathering units.

AL-THAWRAH: What about Baghdad Day?

The minister: When we celebrate Baghdad day, that is because it has a special flavor, because we are placing the Baghdad of yesterday and the Baghdad of today before our eyes.

The Baghdad of yesterday was the capital of al-Rashid, the home of peace, the oasis of love.

The Baghdad of today is the capital of perseverance and sacrifice, the capital of the commander of the triumphal course, the president and commander, the fighting man Saddam Husayn, the beacon of the Arabs and the ocean of modern history, from which all revolutionaries and all persons defending the truth who seek peace and freedom drink.

Baghdad Day will be celebrated on 21 April of each year and a higher committee has been formed for this immortal day.

11887

CSO: 4404/152

RAILWAY ORGANIZATION PLANS VARIOUS EXPANSIONS, IMPROVEMENTS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by Ra'd 'Abd-al-Jabbar Jawad: "As Part of the General Railway Organization's Plan: Construction of New Stations in the Governorates and Improvement of the Old Ones with Modern Services"]

[Text] The General Railway Organization is now carrying out a large number of projects concerned with the railways in the country.

To shed light on the projects the organization is carrying out, AL-THAWRAH met with Eng Raji' Jasim Muhammad, vice chairman of the General Railway Organization, who said that the organization's agencies are now carrying out important projects to increase transport capability in both directions on the Mosul line and the Basrah line.

The organization is also carrying out the project to correct sharp curves on the Mosul line, replace old iron rails, construct a number of bridges, culverts and stations on the line, maintain other bridges and culverts and weld line rails to get rid of noise from the existing extension joints between rails, as well as completing the project of automatic signals and direct connection cables, establishing shops for renovating wheels and maintaining control machinery and signal and connection equipment.

He pointed out that the organization is also building a vocational institute for railways in the al-Yusufiyah area which will accommodate various categories of occupations bearing on railways and based on telecommunications among locomotive engineers, traffic officers and station superintendents and among the control centers and departments of the railway's geographic areas.

He stated that the organization agencies concerned have actually started the process of moving specific containers, a developed transportation process, and establishing special areas for containers.

He said that work is continuing on the construction of new stations in some governorates on a broad scale, in addition to a study of the development of the central station in West Baghdad, where the number of platforms will be doubled in the future and will be covered with a continuous roof. Two

underground stations will be built under the level of the present station, one for urban transport trains (transport for the suburbs) and the other for rapid regional transport trains, with the provision of all the services passengers require and a study of the project to duplicate the Baghdad-al-Ma'qal line with high specifications and high axle load.

Extensive developments will also take place on the East Baghdad station, although the modern railway projects will occupy three degrees in terms of class and size of construction, with modern specifications in which all services and facilities will be provided along with special underground tunnels for the passage of passengers and baggage moving carts.

He stated that the organization has contracted to buy 82 modern diesel electric locomotives with a speed of 120 kilometers per hour; 54 diesel electric locomotives were delivered in 1984 and 27 other modern ones with 1,100 horsepower are currently used between the railway lines and cargo assembly areas.

Contract has also been reached on the purchase of 4,700 specialized freight cars. Most of them have been delivered and it is hoped that the remainder will be delivered subsequently.

He asserted that the organization has also imported a large group of passenger cars conforming to the most modern international specifications and a number of them have been put in operation on the current lines, are designed for high speed with high degrees of comfort and security and are on a par with those that exist in the possession of railway departments in the advanced countries.

11887
CSO: 4404/153

VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN DAHUK GOVERNORATE REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by Sattar 'Abd-al-Jabbar: "Great Achievements Realized by the Agricultural Sector in Dahuk Governorate"]

[Text] In the years of the war imposed on our struggling country, the Governorate of Dahuk has witnessed a great qualitative development, thanks to continuous support from the leaders of the party and the revolution, headed by the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, in all areas, especially the agricultural sector.

Great achievements have been realized in the area of production and agricultural activity in all its features -- orchard cultivation, livestock and agricultural and guidance services.

Mr Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamid, director general of the general agricultural authority in Dahuk, stated that the period of the war imposed on our struggling country has been characterized by distinctive, serious activity, and the efforts of workers have been joined on behalf of realizing great qualitative development in production. The governorate has emerged from the style of traditional agriculture in order to enter the realm of modern agriculture, by making use of advanced technology in the processes of serving the land and crops, and the use of modern agricultural machinery of high productive ability, such as tractors, sowers and reapers, as well as the use of chemical fertilizers which contribute to increasing production and improving production quality, has become widespread.

The uses of fertilizers and deterrent materials for eliminating pests and plant and forest diseases has also expanded, alongside which per-donum productivity has increased, coming to more than 400 kilograms per donum of wheat as compared with 200 kilograms in the past. The quantities of wheat being marketed have increased several times over. The increase in productivity and improvement in quality have included most crops.

In the area of poultry meat, the director general of the authority pointed out that the governorate has made a modest beginning in this respect but the number of pens engaged in the fattening of meat poultry has come to 95,

working to produce more than 2,500 tons of poultry meat. This has occurred in conjunction with the construction of incubators and fodder plants sufficient to meet these projects' needs for chicken and fodder.

In the area of orchard cultivation, hundreds of donums of new orchards established on scientific bases have been added through the use of good seedlings which this authority has provided, in addition to loans and accessories for establishing orchards.

The use of modern machinery used to maintain these orchards, such as small tractors and their accessories and prevention equipment, scientific trimming and modern methods of upkeep have been widespread in addition to the reuse of hundreds of donums of abandoned dry-farmed orchards, especially vineyards and almond and fig orchards.

In the area of livestock health and veterinary services, the areas for providing these services have been expanded through a number of veterinary clinics which veterinaries administer by means of competent intermediate personnel.

In order to keep abreast of this development, the authority has sought to intensify indoctrination campaigns, guidance seminars, field explanations and training of workers in various fields in order to modernize and stimulate their information and provide a suitable means and climate for benefiting from modern technology in the execution of agricultural plans and programs.

The director general of the agricultural authority in Dahuk stressed that the course of agriculture in the governorate is now proceeding in a sound direction through the streamlined flow of agricultural commodities and products and the supply of those surplus to the needs of the governorate, since the surplus has been marketed to other governorates, for example various forms of high-quality fruit which are sought after in the consumer market, and also the tomato crop, whose great surplus is marketed in the country's markets and canneries during the production season.

In the area of planning and the agricultural plan, Mr Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman pointed out that the authority's commitments on the basis of the stipulations of agricultural conferences are being carried out at satisfactory rates, and no great discrepancy exists either in the context of areas or production and marketing.

Arable areas which are not used or abandoned no longer exist, in spite of the small area of the governorate relative to the autonomy area.

The total area farmed with various crops in the summer season of the current year came to 21,153 donums, including 11,774 donums with tomatoes and the rest of the land with rice, sunflowers, summer vegetables, Indian peas, corn and sesame crops.

With respect to the 1985-86 winter season, the rate of execution of the agricultural plan came to 105 percent. An area of 300,301 donums out of an

original 285,342 donums was farmed with various winter crops, including the farming of 227,784 donums with wheat, 167,901 donums of fertilized wheat, and 61,966 donums with barley.

All efforts were joined to participate in providing self-sufficiency in food for the masses of the people, who are standing in a single, deterrent rank alongside their heroic armed forces, in defense of the sovereignty and dignity of our dear nation.

11887

CSO: 4404/153

BRIEFS

ARMY COMMANDER ON IRANIAN OFFENSIVE--Basra, southern Iraq, 27 December (INA)--Staff Major General Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim al-duri, commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps, has announced that eight Iranian divisions and nine brigades, all of them from Khomeyni's guards, were sent to confront the III Army Corps. In a news conference held today and attended by Arab and foreign newspaper and magazine correspondents and news agencies, Maj Gen Al-duri affirmed that during the recent battle our brave Armed Forces either killed or wounded approximately 50,000 to 60-,000, captured a large number of troops, and killed two senior Iranian commanders, adding that this battle is viewed as exemplary, unique, and distinctive, and that it produced more important results than previous battles waged by the brave Iraqi Armed Forces. Maj Gen Al-duri also pointed out that the Iranian regime hastened to launch its recent offensive as a result of the disclosure of its arms cooperation with the United States through the Zionist entity and as a result of the devastating blows dealt to its troop concentrations by the brave Air Force, praising the splendid heroic role of the Air Force Hawks and the helicopters as well as the fire support from the various types of weapons which played an important role in deciding the battle. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1318 GMT 27 Dec 86 JN] /12913

IRAQI RESPONSE TO OFFENSIVE--Several prisoners of the Zionist Iranian enemy who have been captured by our valiant Armed Forces in the III and VII Army Corps sectors have affirmed that the swift and violent response of the Iraqi forces has shattered the attacking Iranian forces and inflicted enormous losses on them in men and materiel. The INA war correspondent in the III and VII Army Corps sectors interviewed a number of these prisoners before they were evacuated to the rear lines this morning. The prisoners clearly referred to the low morale of the attacking Iranian forces which knew beforehand that they had no chance of escaping the decisive Iraqi response. [Text] [Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Dec 86 JN] /12913

NEW BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR--Muhyi al-din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, has received (Asim Elias Zakanov), the new Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad on the assumption of his new post. [Text] [Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Dec 86 JN] /12913

PHOSPHATE ORES DISCOVERED--Baghdad, 23 December (INA)--Subhi Yasin, Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals, has announced that large quantities of phosphate ores have been discovered in specific areas in Iraq. In a statement to INA, the minister said the reserves of phosphate ores in these areas are

estimated at 3.5 billion tons. The Iraqi minister added that the explorations made by the general authority on minerals have confirmed that the specifications of the crude phosphates and the mining conditions in these areas are similar to the reserves currently exploited in the phosphate fertilizer industry. The minister pointed out that the discovered, confirmed, and expected reserves which could be discovered through the continuation of geologic explorations, in the areas where there are encouraging signs, will place Iraq at the head of world states in the field of crude phosphates. [Excerpt] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1241 GMT 23 Dec 86 JN] /12913

NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR--Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, today received (Solmat Sushkal), the new Turkish ambassador to Iraq. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two neighborly countries and ways to develop them. [Text] [Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 86 JN] /12913

CSO: 4400/101

TEHIYA PARTY LEADERS, CONFLICTS DEPICTED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Nov 86 (Supplement) pp 4-6

[Article by Ayal Erlich: "Fraternity: Struggles Within the TEHIYA Movement"]

[Text] The various factions within the TEHIYA leadership are meeting separately and do not cooperate with each other. The secretariat of the movement has forbidden Geula Kohen to visit the other branches to enlist support for her position. Kohen's camp sees Raful and its group as representatives of ALIGNMENT who are stealing the movement from the nationalist camp. The Raful camp sees Kohen and her cohorts as chattering revisionists who are not accomplishing anything. Debts of more than 100,000 sheqels make the functioning of the party difficult. Its fate depends on Yuval Ne'eman. The curtain is being lifted from the secrets of TEHIYA.

About a month ago, while the head of TEHIYA, Yuval Ne'eman, was abroad, the secretariat of the movement met for its weekly session. Till that time, Geula Kohen had taken Ne'eman's place and had led the sessions. Rafael Eytan and his people, who had joined the movement before the elections in 1984, did not like the idea that number 3 on the list in the Knesset was taking over as chairperson, but they were reluctant to generate a crisis over the issue. At that session, the Raful factor took off the kid gloves. Geula Kohen had started to conduct the meeting when Ya'aqov Yuviya, a member of the secretariat from the Raful faction, stood up and said: "Raful is number 2 in the movement, so, when Yuval is not around, it should lead the meetings." Kohen was opposed to the idea. Yosef Ma'ayan, a person loyal to Kohen in the secretariat, said to Yuviya: "So what is Raful is number 2 in the list for the Knesset? Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino is also number 2 in the list for ALIGNMENT. Does that mean that she really fills in for Perez? Geula has always filled in for Yuval when he is away." Chaos ensued. Tuviya proposed that Gershon Shafet conduct the meeting. Shafet refused. The secretary general of the movement, Gershon Altshuler, suggested that a vote be called. Kohen refused. At that point, Kohen announced that, since she had called the meeting of the secretariat, she would end it. "You can stay here and have a friendly chat till morning," she told those present and left the room with Yosef Ma'ayan. The rest of the secretariat stayed and continued the meeting.

This explosion represented a new stage in the struggle which began with a squaring off between Rafael Eytan and Geula Kohen over control of the

movement's institutions. The problems actually began with the merger of TEHIYA and TZOMET in 1984 before the elections.

Till now, the heads of TEHIYA have kept secret about these party struggles out of consideration for the good of the party. The main players in these struggles. MKs Kohen, Eytan, and Secretary General Altshuler, refused to be interviewed for this article. "Geula would kill me if she knew I was telling these stories," one of the activists in 'Geula Kohen's camp' told me this week (yes there is such a thing). "She forbade us...but I decided that it was wrong to keep quiet any longer. What is happening here is that they are stealing the movement away from us. If we sit around doing nothing, it will be suicide. She related to TEHIYA like a mother does to a child she has given birth to and has raised. She is afraid, and rightly so, of any harm or trouble that might come because of things written about TEHIYA in the newspapers. She is, therefore, unwilling to speak a word about this. I feel that we have come to the point where some of the things happening in the movement deserve to be examined closely, in the medical sense of the world. I equate a conversation with you to an operation. What is involved is that the movement lies naked on the table, the intestines are opened up, and there is lots of blood and filth. Later, it will be hooked up to various infusions, but in the end it will be healthier. I am willing to face this hurdle because I believe the movement needs it.

"The TEHIYA movement," said the activist, "was built initially as a triangle composed of three forces each of which had a glorious history and had made powerful contributions to the state of Israel. The three included the nationalist camp, the labor camp, and the religious camp. People left their parties and established a movement that combined them all for the sake of the concept of a complete Israel. The glue that holds the three forces together is Yuval Ne'eman. Cutting off any of the elements turns the triangle into two lines with a doubtful existence. Unfortunately, there has been an attempt recently, at first disguised and now blatant, to break up the triangle, to push out Geula Kohen and the nationalist camp which she represents. But it is very clear that without the nationalist camp, the movement does not exist.

"The current flagbearer of this attempt to push Geula out is the secretary general of the movement, Gidon Altshuler, who is enjoying the ascendancy of Rafi. While Geula runs around day and night with movement matters, and as she carries the struggle to Qassaba, to the Temple Mount, to Jericho, and to Gaza, elements try to pull the rug out from under her with all kinds of actions within the movement. In the public eye, on the street, in reality, Geula Kohen is the TEHIYA movement. She is the parliamentarian, she guides the struggles, and she, together with Yuval Ne'eman, sets policies. But factions close to home are not just speaking but working against her. If this process continues, it will be the end of TEHIYA.

This process of fighting Geula began when TZOMET joined the movement. Kohen was opposed to TZOMET getting representation of 30 percent in the institutions, but the majority of the members of TEHIYA decided to approve. So it has turned out that in the secretariat, the senior body composed of 14 members, Geula Kohen's camp has only two (she and Yosef Ma'ayan); the

religious have four representatives, Yuval Ne'eman has two (Gidon Altshuler and Yossi Yeshurun); and the Raful camp is composed of five representatives (Farael Eytan himself, his friends from TZOMET, Ya'akov Yuviya, Shmuel Yizraeli, Eli'ezer Golan, and the old TEHIYA man Ephraim Ben-Haim).

On June 4 of this year, the TEHIYA council chose Gidon Altshuler, 59 years old, a colonel in the reserves, to be secretary general of the movement. A few hours earlier, during a debate in a group room at the Knesset, Geula Kohen expressed her opposition to his election. He apparently did not like this, and, in the presence of Rafael Eytan and Gershon Shafet, said to her: "Tell me, who are you anyway? What have you done for this country? You have never planted a single tree. You were just a talker in some underground movement." According to someone close to her, Kohen boiled with anger and hurried to the head of the movement, Yuval Ne'eman, to get him to toss out Altshuler. Ne'eman did nothing. Four days later, more stinging remarks of Altshuler's were published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "I love her," he said about Kohen, "and at times I even lust after her." Female Knesset members asked about these expressions were furious. Shulamit Aloni said: "If it were our party, he would have been shot off like a missile." Sara Doron expressed her opinion. "What Altshuler has done is disgraceful. Such a man cannot represent the public." Geula Kohen herself responded: "There is no doubt that I will put him in his place. I asked for his resignation quite apart from this matter. I expressed my lack of confidence in him with regard to substantive issues. Now other men and women in TEHIYA can understand that a secretary general who expresses himself in this way cannot represent the movement." True or not, there have not been supporters for her demand to have him removed.

Among Men

Probably the fact that Kohen is the only woman in a group of men, most of them chauvinists, has been a problem. "The Raful people took advantage of the Altshuler business to attack Geula," says one of those close to her, proposing a different explanation. "Instead of considering the good of the movement, which would require that Altshuler be given the boot, they gave more power to his attacks on Geula. Geula herself reminded Raful that on the eve of the elections, he himself had called Altshuler a scoundrel and had wanted to get him out of the hall where he was speaking. This only shows that the good of the movement is not the first priority of Raful's people, that their main goal is to remove Geula and, later, Yuval Ne'eman as well."

At some point, Geula began circulating among the branches of the movement in order to get support for her request to get rid of Altshuler. The secretariat decided, by a large majority, not to let her carry on that campaign. In response to that, Kohen left the session, but not before she spoke harshly to the members of the secretariat. "You have no right to keep me from explaining my position! In a normal movement, such a prohibition would be unthinkable! The Raful people are explaining their position quite openly. My campaign among the branches is intended for the rehabilitation of the movement, and I will not let you destroy it with decisions of the secretariat!" Also, in a further stage of the battle, Geula and one of her followers presented to the

internal court of the movement six complaints against Altshuler, including poor functioning, causing divisiveness in the movement, and conflict among various branches, and so on.

The last complaint presented to the court concerns some things that Altshuler said, apparently to Doron Kohen, one of Geula's people. According to the sworn testimony of Doron Kohen, he was sitting in a pub in Tel Aviv about 3 weeks ago when Altshuler entered and said to him, among other things: "You know that Geula represents zero percent of the movement today. She does not represent the ideas of TEHIYA, and you might as well know that in the next elections, she will not be on the list for the Knesset Today it is Rafal who represents the movement. Know that you and all those around Geula will only lose by supporting her It would be worth your while to join us."

The man in TEHIYA considered to be the power behind Rafael Eytan is Ya'acov Tuviya, member of Kibbutz Hemdiya. Like the other central personalities in TZOMET, he is basically a labor man, and he sees himself as the true continuer of the labor movement. "I do not think that there is such a great gap today between the various factions in TEHIYA except in terms of memories. I remember myself as a youth, sleeping at night in Bayt-Brenner to keep the revisionists from destroying it. I still have the stick I received from the divisions of HAPOEL. And just as we have historical memories, so do they, from the (Sazon) period and from the first days of the state, when the IZL people could not find work. But I am convinced that the layers of the past do not affect the functioning of the movement. If there is conflict, it is the conflict of temperaments among various people. And that is the basis for the misunderstandings which develop."

Yes, Tuviya has heard some of the things Altshuler has said about Geula Kohen. "Everyone has unfortunate slips of the tongue now and then," he says. Altshuler must be asked not to be so impulsive. But for this you have to kick someone out of the movement? Within our political frameworks, people have said much worse things about each other Didn't Rabin write a book about Peres? What is important is not what people say but what they do. It may be that there is a power struggle here but it is only coming from Geula." According to him, Geula is trying to run the movement.

Tuviya agrees that he said in the secretariat that many people do not join the movement because of Geula Kohen's behavior. "I am not embarrassed to say this publicly," he says. "People are repelled by her lack of restraint and because she does not listen to anyone else. I have told this to her directly, so there is no need to hide this." According to him, her departure would cause an electoral loss, but the movement would probably only benefit by it.

An Establishment Man

Another TZOMET man who does not hold back on criticizing Geula Kohen is Shmuel (Shmulik) Yizraeli, basically a farmer, and a member of the Kinneret (settlement). "The truth is that we have a problem with Geula," he explains. "The problem is actually between Geula, on the one hand, and the entire

secretariat on the other. It is distortion to say that the issue is Raful against Geula. Geula came out of the Herut Movement, and she has the style unique to it. There the leadership leads, and the membership follows suit. It is like those parties where the leader bears the sacred oracle. We have always been used to a different style, more democratic, and more open. There is no justification in making a big deal out of problems which have been agreed upon by the majority. I do not feel inferior to Geula Kohen in terms of my contribution simply because I am not a member of the Knesset. Is Geula entitled to operate by a different set of rules? When the majority decides about something, and the secretariat also decides, it is not right to go and try to change decisions."

While the Raful people do not hesitate to criticize openly, Geula Kohen's people are afraid to do so. About Rafael Eytan, they argue that he is a very establishment-oriented man, and that he does not fit in with the dynamic character of a movement like TEHIYA. They mention a number of examples of this. Raful refused to join a group of members who entered the casbah at Hebron. He avoided the gathering near the Maghrebi Gate during the second visit to the Temple Mount. He refused to come to the protest meeting in Ashqelon to demonstrate against the square to be named after the king of Morocco, and on and on. "Raful elicits respect as a chief of general staff, but he is lousy as a politician." That has how one of Geula's people put it. "Not only is he not contributing actively to the movement the way Geula and Yuval Ne'eman are doing, but he and his followers are trying to change the character of the movement to make it more establishment-oriented. Geula is not against Raful but against the people who are trying to hitch a ride on his shoulders. The problem is not a personal one with Geula. If her main interest was her personal career, she would be in LIKUD squaring off against David Levy and Arik Sharon. Her concern is with the character and future of TEHIYA."

"There is no one in charge in the movement," complains someone close to Kohen. "While Geula was busy in the Knesset, in the political arena, Raful's people were pulling the rug from under her feet. Ne'eman should have prevented that. The absurd thing is that the TZOMET people actually think that they deserve this. Six months Tuviya said in the secretariat that without Geula, TEHIYA would get ten mandates. Geula responded: 'Perhaps you are right. So why don't you go out on your own? Leave us and go to the Knesset yourselves.' The situation now is that the TZOMET people meet among themselves and we [Geula's group] meet separately once a week. Geula, in any case, is working to prevent a split."

The only person who can solve this problematic situation in TEHIYA is Professor Yuval Ne'eman. And as if its complex internal problems were not enough, the movement is also caught up in serious debts of, apparently, more than 100,000 sheqels. About 2 months ago, the treasury files were transferred, over the protests of Raful's group, from Altshuler's hands to someone outside the organization. And now Ne'eman is being asked to deal with Geula Kohen's demand to oust the secretary general on the grounds that he is a divisive force and to alter the composition of the secretariat in such a way that it will better represent the various elements in the party.

"The Weak Force"

When Professor Ne'eman is in Israel, he sits in a carefully furnished office in the physics building at the University of Tel-Aviv. On one of the walls in his office is a letter from a laboratory in the United States. It says that the theory which he developed about the existence of an atomic struture called "omega minus" has been proven in laboratory tests. He almost received the Nobel Prize in physics from this theory, and there are those who argue that it was only political reasons that kept him from winning. He has a pleasant manner, a bit eccentric, and is rather fanatical about his views. He has no charisma, and he does not look like the kind of person you would expect to see at the head of an embattled political movement. But within the complex internal structure of TEHIYA, it is precisely this "weakness" which gives him his unique position within the movement. Ne'eman says that, among other things, he is now involved in studying the "weak force," a concept in nuclear physics. When one thinks about it, Ne'eman, as the leader of the movement, represents the "weak force" in the political realm.

He is cautious in his remarks when he is asked to respond to the ongoing conflicts. "Personal issues like these can occur," he says. "Altshuler is not very restrained in his language, and he said very sharp things to her. He has come down on her several times. And he has a biting tongue. I have asked him many times to control himself, and, were he to do so, life would be much easier. The question is how important are the things he is saying. In my opinion, all the stories concern personal issues. My job is really to keep the peace, but it is hard to do so in a camp with such hard-nosed people. The people who have come to TEHIYA are tied very closely to their beliefs and have not given up their ideology. Many people who followed Begin stayed with him even when he returned the Sinai. Those who were stubborn and said that the LIKUD platform was more important than Begin were more true to their beliefs. That happened to me, too. All my involvement in politics has come because of my insistence on not giving up specific beliefs. The people in TEHIYA are not an easy group personally. But I believe I have good communication with all of them."

[Question] I have the impression that someone may leave the system.

[Answer] I do not know. I do not see Geula leaving the party, and I don't see anyone replacing her. A day may come when someone will be elected to replace Altshuler as secretary general. That could happen. And he will remain a respected member of the movement. My feeling is that TEHIYA will continue with all its elements.

[Question] Including Altshuler?

[Answer] There may come a time when he will change roles. But the head of the movement will also change roles at some point.

[Question] How do you feel about Ya'akov Yuviya, a member of the secretariat, saying that Geula Kohen is trying to take control of the movement?

[Answer] No one can keep people from expressing their feelings but no one controls TEHIYA. Geula Kohen is not over Raful, nor is Raful over her. In TEHIYA things must be resolved by mutual agreement because it is impossible to force anyone. We know what our power is, what our limitations are, and that we must proceed together.

[Question] What do you think of Altshuler's statement that he desires Geula Kohen?

[Answer] Really, I never made a fuss when Yosi Sarid called me a maniac. So what? I have not yet called anyone names. But if there are those who use abusive language; one must try to live with it.

[Question] Some of Geula Kohen's supporters claim that Altshuler gets backing from Raful.

[Answer] The situation is such that, since Altshuler was under attack by Geula, he sought support from Raful.

[Question] One of those close to Kohen said that it would be hard for her, as a national popular figure, to swallow the fact that Altshuler insulted her but was not given the boot.

[Answer] I will do everything I can to keep Geula, because I think that it would be bad for the movement if she left. That is one of my responsibilities. I serve as the keystone that holds the bow. Otherwise, I would have left long ago. I would prefer to rely on my friends and to vote for them, but I see that it is important that I remain involved. I am a responsible person, and I will not abandon the situation.

[Question] And what happens if, God forbid, you are forced to leave politics for health reasons?

[Answer] I have thought about a solution for this situation, and perhaps you are right that I ought to share the idea with someone else so that when the time comes, he can come out of his box. I have a solution, and I will try to work towards making it easier and more natural. I remind you that the glue that holds TEHIYA together is not just me, but also Gush-Emunim. There is a hint in that.

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SHEQEL DEVALUATION SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1987

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Nov 86 pp 1, 9

[Article by Shraga Maqel: "The Government Will Devalue the Sheqel in Relation to the Dollar in Early 1987"]

[Text] A private forecast conducted by a concern called KLAL predicts that the government will carry out a devaluation of the sheqel in relation to the dollar at the beginning of 1987. The forecast is based on the fact that wages in the economy have gone up more than 30 percent while the price of the dollar has been fixed since July 1985.

This forecast was presented yesterday at a meeting of the "watchdog committee" for the economic program composed of senior government economists. The report of this forecast was carried out with trepidation about creating expectations among the public concerning the devaluation.

Senior government economists point out that the current governing approach among the leaders of economic policy is that of the president of Bank Israel, Professor Mikhael Bruno who rejects any and every devaluation of the sheqel in relation to the dollar.

The position which has crystallized recently is that it is unwise to carry out devaluation or to help in any other way exporters of the dollar. The idea is to keep government expenses down in relation to exporters and to keep inflation down. The approach which has gained strength since the appointment of Amos Rubinto to the position of economic advisor to the prime minister is that it is up to the manufacturers and the exporters to get along on their own, that the government is not responsible to help them.

Meanwhile, in the Ministry of the Treasury, the government budget for the coming year is being worked out, and the following figures are emerging. The Treasury wants to cut 400-500 million sheqels from the government budget. Included in this is a budget cut for defense. The Treasury is rejecting Defense Minister Yitzhzaq Rabin's request to increase the defense budget by \$265 million and is proposing to cut it instead. The budget cut is necessary in order to keep inflation down and in order to reduce the tax burden on the public.

On Friday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met with Bank Israel President Professor Bruno. In that meeting, they discussed the need to cut the budget and to preserve the policy of wage restraints.

Meanwhile, it turns out that the forecast concerning the development of export industry in the first part of the year is not particularly optimistic. The assistant director general of the Ministry of Business and Industry, (David Brodt), said yesterday in a meeting of the "watchdog committee" that the rate of growth of industrial exports will drop in 1987 over 1986. In the course of discussion, it was proposed that an increase in clothing imports be allowed in order to lower clothing prices in Israel, but the proposal was not accepted.

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CSO: 4423/11

BRIEFS

BANK BRANCHES IN W. BANK--Amman--Three Jordanian banks intend to open branches in the occupied West Bank. They are the Arab Bank, the Arab Land Bank (Al-Bank al-'Aqari al-'Arabi] and Grindlays Bank. The Cairo-Amman Bank opened a branch in Nabulus last month and intends to open branches in other cities. Also, 'Ali Ghandur, chairman of the Royal Jordanian Airline board of directors, has announced that the airline intends to open offices in the Bank. [Text] [Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 18 Dec 86 p 1 JN] /6662

SAUDI ARABIA AID FOR GAZA PROJECT--Saudi Arabia is funneling \$1 million into the Gaza Strip, through UN mediation, to solve the sewage problem in the refugee camps in the northern part of the Strip. This has been learned by our correspondent Gil Sadan. The transfer of money from Saudi Arabia is compatible with the government's policy, which encourages the funneling of money from Arab countries for development projects in the territories. Our correspondent points out that this is the first time that an Arab country other than Jordan has injected such a vast amount of money. [Text] [Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Dec 86 TA] /6662

NEW HEALTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR--Dr Dov Golan has been appointed as the new director general of the Health Ministry. Golan, 49, was born in Vienna. He graduated from the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School. He takes up his new post on 1 January. [Summary] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Dec 86 TA] /6662

BUILDING PROJECT FOR HEBRON SETTLERS--[Report by Joel Greenberg]--Hebron--The Housing Ministry has begun work on a new building project for settlers in the Jewish courtyard in Hebron. Members of the Knesset "settlement lobby" yesterday viewed the building site in the city's old Jewish quarter during a tour of the region hosted by the Judaea and Samaria settlements council. The new buildings will house 13 families, a seminar centre and other public areas, according to Ze'ev "Zambish" Hever, chairman of the Association for the Renewal of Jewish Settlement in Hebron. At the Betar 'Ilit settlement site, south of Jerusalem, which currently consists of a handful of empty caravans, settlement organizer Joe Rosenberg told the MKs of plans to settle some 6,000 people on three hills to be named Trumpeldor, Jabotinsky and Bar Kochba. Rosenberg said he was waiting for final approval for the plan from the Housing Ministry before beginning construction of the first 100 homes. Rosenberg said settlement at the site, near the last stronghold of the Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans, had been delayed for three years due to litigation by Arabs who claimed ownership of the land. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Dec 86 pp 1, 4 TA] /6662

POWER STATION FOR EGYPT--Israel will export a solar power station worth \$4 million to Egypt. This was determined in an agreement of eight paragraphs concluded between Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and the Egyptian oil minister. The power station has a 10-megawatt capacity. Other solar energy topics were also discussed such as solar pools with which Israel could help Egypt. In February, a delegation will be arriving in Israel from Egypt to work more on these subjects. Before that, an Egyptian oil export will arrive in Israel. He will help Israel in its oil exploration activities by giving free advice. It is not out of the question that he may join the Har Hanegev project which is due to begin in the coming months. [Text] [Tel Avid HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Nov 86 p 5a] 9348/13104

CS0: 4423/11

ARTICLE REPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 1-7 Dec 86 p 36

[Article: "Economic Recession in Jordan Persists"]

[Text] Figures published by the Jordanian Central Bank in its 1985 annual report showed a continued trend of the economic recession the country has experienced for the last few years despite the many measures the government has adopted to stimulate and encourage local investments and to attract foreign investments, Arab particularly, which contributed to better performance by some key economic indicators.

The GNP growth rate in relation to the fixed cost and market prices rose from 0.9 and 0.8 percent in 1984 to 2.7 and 3 percent in 1985, respectively. The agricultural sector realized a tangible improvement whereby its income rose 17 percent in 1985 as compared to a 12.9 percent decline for the previous year. The rest of the sectors, however, recorded only modest growth, as reflected in the conditions of the commercial banks whose asset and liability growth rate dropped from 14.6 percent in 1984 to 12 percent in 1985. The average growth of commercial banks and the housing bank facilities dropped from 14.9 to 17.6 percent for the same period. On the other hand, the rate of deposits dropped from 14.7 to 9 percent and growth in this respect for 1985 was concentrated in time deposits which rose 18.3 percent. Meanwhile, savings deposits rose no more than 1.5 percent at a time when current deposits for the first time since 1970 dropped 8.6 percent.

The foreign trade sector experienced some decline at a rate of 0.2 percent for 1985 as opposed to a 5.5 percent rise for the previous year, reflecting a drop of JD 5.7 million for the year and a 3.1 million increase in imports.

However, the balance of payments realized a surplus of JD 37.74 million compared to a 39.76 deficit for 1984. This surplus was the result of higher aid revenues Jordan received during the year, lower foreign loan and government payments and higher revenues from tourism, notwithstanding the 15.5 percent drop in remittances for the year by Jordanians working abroad.

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CSO: 4404/151

BRIEFS

IMPORT-EXPORT DATA --Total Jordanian exports for 1985 amount to about JD 255.3 million, an increase of over 6 percent over 1984. This improvement is due to a high rate of increase in exports of consumer goods, phosphate and chemical fertilizer. On the other hand, Jordanian imports for the last few years have declined, amounting to JD 107.45 billion for last year, compared to JD 114.25 billion for 1981. An Arab Bank study states that the chronic deficit in the Jordanian balance of payments represents one of the most significant problems in the Jordanian economy. Saudi and Iraqi markets are the leading markets for Jordanian production. Total exports to Saudi Arabia amounted to 159 million dinars and to Iraq, about 173 million dinars. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 20 Dec 86 p 37] 12502

CSO: 4404/151

TRIPOLI RESIDENTS DETAIL SYRIAN 'MASSACRE'

NC22140 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] The Association of Tripoli Residents issued a statement today detailing the tragic scope of the inhumane methods employed by the Syrian forces in their attempt to regain control of this city, methods which are reminiscent of the events that took place in Homs and Hamah.

The statement says:

The events that took place in Tripoli on 19 and 20 December are a lasting shame for the Syrian regime, whose practices were even worse than those of the Nazi German Army during World War II.

The Association of Tripoli Residents would like to note the following facts:

At midnight on Thursday, the Al-Tabbanah section of Tripoli came under a sudden and violent bombardment.

At 0400 on Friday, Syrian forces, backed by pro-Syrian parties, launched a four-pronged attack on Al-Tabbanah. The early hours of the day saw the Syrians committing a heinous massacre of innocent and unarmed civilians. Young and old people, women and children were escorted in their pajamas to summary executions.

The Syrian forces then blew up several houses while their inhabitants were still inside, using dynamite and TNT. This happened particularly near the Harba Mosque and opposite to the Nashshabi Hospital. According to available statistics some 500 casualties resulted.

As a second stage, the Syrian forces rounded up all the youth of Al-Tabbanah and held them in the Al-Amrikan and Al-Rahibat centers in Al-Qubbah, as well as in other unknown centers. Meanwhile, pro-Syrian militiamen were looting homes and shops in the area.

In the third, and current, stage of their operations, the Syrian forces are evacuating most of the residents of Al-Tabbanah to Ba'l Muhsin, the 'Alawite

section of Tripoli. This forced movement of the population, which follows the kidnapping of male residents, is producing a change in the demographic characteristics of Al-Tabbanah.

Against this sombre backdrop, the Association of Tripoli Residents states the following:

1. Al-Tabbanah should be considered a disaster area. Medical and food supplies must be sent there immediately. The area should be freed from Syria's grip. There must be a halt to the enslavement and evacuation of its inhabitants. The lives of detainees should be protected, and torture and physical liquidation must be stopped. The detainees should be freed at once.
2. Foreign newsmen, the International Red Cross, foreign diplomats, and the Human Rights Committee are invited to visit Tripoli and inspect the conditions there.
3. The residents of Tripoli are called upon to engage in a nonviolent and comprehensive boycott of the Syrian occupation forces. The inhabitants should not cooperate with these forces in any way whatever. In the meantime, residents of Tripoli should offer all possible help to families that have been bereaved.
4. This Friday is to be a day of national mourning for the victims of the Syrian massacre in Tripoli.

In another development, the doctors who dealt with the dead in the recent events in Tripoli issued a medical report today. According to post-mortem examinations, the report says, death in several cases was caused by sharp objects. Others were killed by strangulation, among them a pregnant woman, children, and elderly people.

The families of the dead, whose bodies still lie in the Islamic hospitals, are refusing to bury the victims. The hospital, with 60 bodies inside, has become a morgue.

/6662

CSO: 4400/82

ISLAMIC GROUPING URGES DIALOGUE, SECURITY PLAN

NC221734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] The Islamic Grouping has repeated its call to revive the security plan for Beirut and its suburbs and to support it with a new spirit that will guarantee its implementation with the help of fraternal Syria.

The Islamic Grouping strongly attacked the chaos, the undisciplined behavior, the storming of houses, and the acts of aggression perpetrated against people's property. It appealed to the parties involved in the camps war to work hard to arrive at a solution that will end the fighting, tragedy, and devastation.

During its extraordinary meeting today under the chairmanship of Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the Islamic Grouping reiterated its call for officials to resume the dialogue in order to reach an agreement. The Islamic Grouping believes that the position required by the sects necessitates that government officials have a minimum feeling of responsibility.

The Islamic Grouping expressed its regret at Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi's statement, rejecting its content. The grouping urged all parties to appreciate the delicacy and gravity of the current situation in order to avoid possible conflagration. The grouping expressed its satisfaction with Mufti Khalid's stand in this regard.

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CSO: 4400/82

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE REGISTRAR PROGRESS OVER 25 YEARS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Dec 86 pp 53, 54

[Article: "Number of Workers Has Doubled 22 Times During Quarter Century"]

[Text] When the Saudi government, represented by the Ministry of Industry and Electricity, assigned an area of 21 million square meters to establish an industrial park for the construction of a number of factories in Riyadh, it seemed to those concerned at the time that the area was too vast and large. From their point of view, it seemed a larger area than would be required for the construction of factories. Others asked with amazed surprise: "What are you doing to do with this vast area? Do you want to transfer Detroit to Riyadh?!" It is well known that Detroit is the car manufacturing city in the United States. With the passage of time, there appeared a dire need to establish another industrial park adjacent to the first one. The two parks are overflowing with various factories which produce several consumption commodities for different usages. According to the latest census of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity the number of factories has reached 619.

On comparing this number to what it was 15 years ago, i.e., in 1970, when the number of factories was only 78, the growth is found to be about 700 percent.

The development of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry reflects, perfectly, the economic development of the city. The secretary general of the chamber, Salih al-Tu'aymi, says: "When the chamber was established in 1961 we occupied a small 3-room apartment. When we moved to a 5-room villa we considered the move to be a huge one. But soon we moved to a 20-room building which became too small for us due to the development of the commercial sector and the doubling of the responsibilities and the number of the commercial establishments. There emanated an obvious need for a building that satisfies the needs and contains the activities, and that will be a distinctive symbol of the commercial sector. The building of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh is a magnificent engineering work of art that represents the maturity attained by the commercial sector in the city.

The secretary general of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry recalls the commercial activity in the past years and a quarter of a century ago when the commercial activity was in its simplest form. The most important commercial sectors then were those located in the area falling between the two

parallel axes formed by the street of King Faysal "al-Wazir" from one side and the street of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz "al-Batha'" on the other side. The oldest of these sectors is the one represented by the al-Dayrah market near the big mosque, which is a gradual extension of the only market that existed then. That area conserved its traditions and practices,. It welcomed those who came from the neighboring villages to work because of its proximity to the fruit and vegetables market in "al-Muqaybarah." The Kuwaiti market "al-Batha'", which was established in the fifties, had a traditional pattern. It extended along al-Batha street and is considered to be densely commercial. A commercial sector was then established along the traditional pattern in the area located between "al-Wazir" and "al-Batha'" streets south of the old cemetery. It included shops built according to the more modern concepts and which comprised agencies of international companies for air transport, and bank branches. With the exception of these areas, there were no more than small groceries in the districts to meet the alimentary and supply requirements.

Today, and beginning in the last few years, the commercial movement has expanded and attained levels that were not expected even by the people who were closer to the points of commercial decision making and the estimation of its development. Independent commercial organizations were established. The area of markets was doubled and the architectural styles in their construction and design were elevated.

The urban development in the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia necessitated the accompaniment of new innovations to ensure the continuation of that development. While the carpenters, plumbers, and electricians used to satisfy the people's need and requirements, the country, including Riyadh and Medina, has come to know a new breed of services represented by maintenance companies, employment agencies, and cleaning companies which were neither known nor familiar in the past.

Youth Enter the Commercial Sector

The Chamber of Commerce, according to Salih al-Tu'aymi, the secretary general of the chamber, is considered to be one of the precise indicators of the development of commercial activities. When he joined the chamber a quarter of a century ago the number of merchants registered in the chamber did not exceed 200. In 1985 the number of registrants reached 18,393 merchants and manufacturers, i.e., the number grew 92 times during a quarter of a century.

This number does not represent more than 50-60 percent of the businessmen and those involved in commerce in the city of Riyadh. The ones registered in the chamber are only those whose work requires import and export operations. The inducements of success in the march of government projects attracted a large number of young men to that sector, and they quit their government and non-government jobs. Circumstances at that time made it very easy for an individual to form an establishment that will find work to implement or participate with other implementing companies.

We asked the secretary general of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh this question: "Who will continue to work in the market, now, after the successful completion of the establishments' construction and the start of the economic stability stage?"

His answer was as follows:

"The largest majority (about 80 percent) of those who entered the commercial sector, and especially since 1980, depended on the state's construction projects. The economic structure needed their existence. That existence played an active role in pushing the development wheel and implementing the state's plans. Now, after reaching the economic stability stage, the market cannot accommodate 18,000 businessmen and companies, a large number of whom will definitely leave, but the question that arises is, who will leave? The answer is easy: the individual who depended on his success on the stage of economic upswing, without relying on sound management, will definitely leave. Most of those that appeared during the economic upswing were applying the saying "the birds eat and the resources remain." Things have changed. Resources will exist but competition for them is strong. They will be won only by those who act right, have diligent management, and view costing as a basis. Riyadh represents at least 20 percent of the volume of commercial exchange existing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All those who depend on sound management practices will continue to operate in its markets.

Women and Commerce

The Saudi woman enjoys the right to open a commercial register for herself, and to practice commercial activities within the permitted limits. The number of female registrants in the chamber's membership is 400 women who practice commercial activities pertaining to the fields peculiar to their sex such as sewing establishments.

The secretary general of the Chamber of Commerce does not deny that the Saudi community will remain very conservative. In view of the great number of women who graduated from universities, and who have achieved a measure of education, special factories for women will be opened in the future in the fields that require their work such as weaving and precision instruments. There is an inclination to have the operations of a part of the production of the drugs factory, which will be built in al-Qasim region, done by women. Female markets where management and sales were done by women, were successful.

A few years ago, the question of the establishment of a Chamber of Industry was raised. In view of the volume of obligations, and because the industrial sector was unable to establish an independent chamber of industry, the solution was to form a committee of industrialists only, whose mission was to convey to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry the facts about industry. This committee was called "the quality committee." Other similar committees, agricultural and medical, were established after the model of the industrial quality committee. They are tantamount to chambers within the chamber. The other chambers of commerce followed the same pattern. This trend led to an increase in the number of members from 18 to 60.

The Industrial Research Center covers an area of 4.5 hectares. Its mission is to help the different factories in the areas of research to improve their production and its quality.

The Saudi capital embraces the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry whose membership includes 18 chambers of commerce which are the totality of Saudi chambers. The council is an apparatus to coordinate and unify the efforts of the chambers and to represent them locally and abroad. The activities of the council include four functions to provide the businessman with information and data from:

- the information centers existing in the chambers.
- issuing magazines and commercial directories that reach the businessman in his locale.
- conducting field research and preparing studies about the problems that he confronts locally and abroad.
- directing and organizing training and development programs.

The Council is a member in international, Arabic, Islamic, and Gulf chamber associations. It also organizes the delegations of Saudi chambers who travel abroad and facilitates the visits of foreign delegations.

Sulayman al-'Aliyan, the well known businessman, heads the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh, and the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

[Box on p 53]

Years until	Development of the number of active factories in the city of Riyadh	Development of the process of registration of companies and individual establishments according to the Commercial Register Office in the city of Riyadh	Development of the number of members affiliated with the chamber
	(1)	(2)	
1970	78	-	691
1971	88	-	701
1972	100	-	738
1973	109	-	1022
1974	136	-	1049
1975	180	-	1252
1976	242	-	1495
1977	310	15753	2240
1978	355	20553	3679

1979	414	29798	5406
1980	458	39370	9030
1981	507	47301	12015
1982	551	52949	12913
1983	584	58775	14542
1984	601	63310*	17541
1985	610	-	18393

- (1) Source: Census Newsletter--Ministry of Industry and Electricity--A.H. 1405.
- (2) Source: Annual Census Yearbook--19th vol, A.H. 1403 (1983).
Dept of Public Census--Ministry of Finance and National Economy.
- Source: Arabic-Saudi Monetary Establishment--Annual Report A.H. 1405 (1985)---p 109 where Riyadh includes 26 percent of the Kingdom, and whose members attained 243,500 companies and individual establishments in the year A.H. 1404.

12655/13104
CSO: 4404/148

PETROLEUM MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON MINERALS, OIL RESERVES

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 Dec 86 p 10

[Article by As'ad al-Siman: "Ghazi: Economic Advantages for Discovering Diamonds Encouraged"]

[Text] During the past few years, the Syrian government has increased the level of its expenditures on petroleum and mineral prospecting. The preliminary outcomes of this prospecting have shown positive results and good economic feasibility. The oil reserves in Syria have risen and the possibility emerged of exploiting new mineral resources, foremost of which is diamonds. AL-SIYASAH interviewed Dr Ghazi al-Darubi, the Syrian minister of oil concerning the results achieved by Syria in its prospecting systems and its policies in this regard. The interview went as follows:

[Question] There has been too much talk lately, at different official levels, about the possibility of extracting diamonds in Syria on a commercial basis. How did this subject start and where has it reached?

[Answer] The Syrian government has established a special organization whose mission was confined to a geological survey of the Syrian Arab Republic. After searching and excavations, the experts found evidence of diamonds. These are rocky deposits called "Kimberliyt", after the city of "Kimberley" in which diamonds were discovered for the first time. In view of this evidence, it was necessary to take samples and test them.

[Question] When was the first discovery made?

[Answer] The "Kimberley" rock was discovered in 1982. In 1985, the first diamond grain was found.

[Question] Were the search and excavations continued?

[Answer] Yes. The studies and technical works were continued to ensure the existence of diamonds in the origin of the samples that were collected in (Shayn) region west of the city of Hims and specifically in the region of the mountain of the prophet "Matthew" and then on the mountain of the prophet "Salih."

[Question] Did foreign experts participate with the Syrian experts in the search and excavations?

[Answer] Yes. There was cooperation between the Syrian experts and experts from West Germany, the Soviet Union, England, and Sierra Leone.

[Question] What were the stages that were completed after that?

[Answer] Several samples were analyzed. These samples were collected from different regions in addition to the previous regions. These are the areas of volcanic eruptions which form geological "cones" at their summits known by the name of "jadabat" in the lexicon of the natives of the region. There are several "jadabat" in Syria from which samples were taken and diamond grains found. Since the first diamond grain was found, a plan was prepared to intensify the work of the excavating teams.

[Question] Did you find diamond extraction to be economically feasible?

[Answer] We are currently carrying on an economic feasibility study for the exploitation of this natural resource. Diamonds are expensive because the costs of extraction are high. Diamond extraction is considered to be economical if a ton of the rock contains the equivalent of one-fourth carat taking into consideration that the carat is one-fifth of a gram. The diamond laden rocks need to be ground, screened, and separated to obtain this precious stone.

[Question] Have you built a laboratory to extract the diamonds?

[Answer] We have contracted for an experimental laboratory, the results of the work therein will help us determine the economic feasibility of exploiting diamonds in Syria. Evidence and the opinions of experts and specialists indicate big prospects for economic exploitation of the diamond in the above-mentioned regions.

[Question] What are the quantities that have been discovered so far?

[Answer] What have been discovered so far are the grains that were washed away from their original locations by natural factors. The locations of the diamond carrying rocks were reached. Exploitation will require mining operations to extract the carrying rock from underground.

[Question] What is the area of the site where these rocks exist?

[Answer] Some of the pits that we mentioned before are small and some are large. Some of them have a diameter of approximately 150 meters. They are larger than those similar, or the ones resembling them, from which diamonds are extracted in Sierra Leone, for example.

[Question] Regarding our talk about discoveries in Syria, are there new petroleum discoveries in Syria?

[Answer] Actually, some discoveries, that can be considered important ones in Syria, have been made since 1984. The first of these discoveries is the "al-Tiym" field south of Dayr al-Zawr which was prepared and developed so as to be put under actual production in September 1984.

Other fields were discovered in that region and oil storing formations were discovered in the regions of al-Ward, al-'Asharah, and al-Kharitah. More well digging and more measurements are being conducted to obtain detailed information about the discovered fields.

There are also new discoveries in the northeastern region of the country. Some of them are extensions of existing fields and are currently under production and others are totally new fields that have not yet been exploited. One of the most important of these new fields is "al-Hawl" which is located in al-Hassakah governorate. Work is currently being done to put this field in production.

[Question] What are the quantities which Syria is exporting abroad, and what are the quantities imported?

[Answer] Actually, part of the Syrian oil is refined in Syria, because the Syrian refineries were designed in a way that some of them operate on the heavy Syrian crude while others operate on the real crude like the Hims refinery, for example. But Banyas refinery operates on a mixture of Syrian oil and light imported oil. The refineries were designed in this way so that their production of oil derivatives can cover the needs of local consumption. It is necessary to import light oil in view of the nature of the heavy Syrian crude. That is why the excess of heavy oil above the needs of the Syrian refineries is exported, while the country imports its needs of light crude. Right now, we are in an approximately stabilized and balanced stage as to satisfying our needs.

[Question] Are there any plans to build new refineries?

[Answer] The Engineering Studies and Consulting Company is currently conducting a study of the economics of refining in the country's refineries. This study includes the future needs of the country, and whether there is a need to build a new refinery or not. The results will be published next year.

[Question] Electrical energy was affected because of the drought in Syria. This has compelled the ministry of electricity to cut the electric current several hours daily in several governorates in Syria. Is there an intention to use oil energy in building electrical projects?

[Answer] A great deal of coordination is occurring between the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Electricity to ensure the supply of electrical energy, the demand for which is increasing with great frequency, through the construction of electricity generating stations that operate on several energy sources. For example, we generate electricity now through gas turbines that operate on gas equivalent to that which is produced in al-Rumaylat fields. Likewise, contracts have recently been drawn up to build an electricity

generating station to operate on (al-Tiryasi) gas in al-Suwayda' to produce 150 megawatts. Besides, preparations are being made to construct another station to operate on the equivalent gas produced from the oil of the Euphrates Company. In addition, there are other plans to generate energy using natural gas whose existence, and the possibility of its commercial and economic exploitation, were indicated by the excavations work.

The existing thermal electricity stations are currently being expanded, while a new thermal station is being constructed in the southern region. Studies are being conducted to construct an electricity generating station in Dar's governorate.

[Question] One of the results of the ministerial meeting of the OAPEC Organization was the reduction of its budget by 25 percent. Will this reduction affect the structure of the organization and threaten its destruction?

[Answer] I do not believe that reducing the organization's budget by 25 percent will destroy it, but will guide its expenditures without affecting the volume of its functions. It is required on all levels to rationalize, guide, and compress the expenditures without affecting the productivity of the organization. This directive was taken into consideration and it was the rationale of the Council of Ministers of the organization, along with the emphasis on taking care to preserve and support the organization.

12655/13104

CSO: 4404/144

BRIEFS

SYRIAN GRADUATES IN USSR--During his recent visit to Moscow, the Syrian Minister of Higher Education, Kamal Sharaf, examined with his Soviet counterpart, Gennadiy Yagodin, ways to develop bilateral cooperation in the field of scientific and technical training. The official Soviet TASS Agency quoted the Syrian minister as saying that the Soviet Union currently has about 4,500 Syrian students studying medicine, engineering, agriculture, electricity and human sciences. The Syrian minister said that over 5,000 Syrian students have been graduated from Soviet universities in the last 30 years and they now occupy leading positions in Syria in various fields. The Syrian minister, himself a graduate of the National Institute of Economics in Moscow, was accompanied by Syrian university presidents who responded to an invitation they received from their Soviet counterparts. TASS said that a Syrian pavilion was opened at the international fair grounds in Moscow, featuring a variety of manufactured Syrian goods and products. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 20 Dec 86 p 14] 12502

CSO: 4404/15

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NOTES DECLINE IN TRADE

JN221829 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Dec 86 p 2

[Article by Naji al-Hayik]

[Text] Trade between the UAE and Japan decreased this year by approximately 20 percent as compared to last year during which trade between the two countries totaled \$10 billion. In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Kunio Katakura, the Japanese ambassador to the UAE, has stated that this decrease is due to the rise in the value of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar and the fierce competition between Japanese industries and other industrial countries such as Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and EEC countries.

The Japanese ambassador said that the completion of huge infrastructure projects such as the telecommunications project, the construction of desalination plants and electrical power plants, and unstable crude oil prices are behind this decreased demand for Japanese products.

The Japanese ambassador explained that cars and transportation vehicles are at the top of Japan's exports to the UAE with electronic equipment, telecommunications equipment, and textiles in second place, while Japan imports from the UAE approximately 20 percent of its annual oil consumption, or 95 percent of the UAE's total export of crude oil and natural gas to Japan. He said that the remaining 5 percent comprises various kinds of fish and dates.

The Japanese ambassador said that Japan is currently trying to increase trade with the GCC countries through the formulation of several plans, chief among which is the gradual change in the quality of the products that Japan exports to the region.

/6662

CSO: 4400/85

PALESTINIAN MEDIATION SEEKS SOLUTION TO CRISES

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Nov-2 Dec 86 pp 15, 16

[Article by Salih Qallab: "Favorable Initiatives for 'Arafat's Mediation in Aden"]

[Text] The recent visit to Aden by the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization came in the wake of an estrangement of more than 3 years. Since the expulsion of PLO troops from Tripoli in northern Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of Yemen has adopted a stance which appears to be consistent with that of some Palestinian factions as well with the stance of some Arab countries. That stance made it extremely difficult for the PLO leader to pay an official visit to the capital of southern Yemen during that period. It is certain, however, that the recent visit was not intended to normalize relations with Aden or to bridge a rift with the new leadership there. For during the course of last year several functionaries in Eastern Europe brought the PLO face to face with a number of functionaries from Southern Yemen, including 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the ruling Socialist Party. At the same time, the turn of events proved that PLO's relations with Aden have not been adversely affected by inter-Palestinian differences or by differences between Palestinians and Arab states. The PLO maintained its good standing with Aden and the latter maintained its respectable position within the PLO.

Although the incidents of last January led to the departure of some Palestinian detachments which were directly affected by the incidents and ensuing conflicts, the status of the PLO and Fath has remained intact. There is a small camp in a subdivision of Aden with an attached model village housing the families of the camp guerrillas. There is also the PLO bureau which enjoys the same diplomatic immunity and rights granted to any Arab or foreign embassy.

What is new then? Why did Abu Ammar undertake that visit at the time? What is the outcome of that visit? What did Abu Ammar achieve before returning to Sanaa?

The first remark that may shed some light on that brief, surprise visit is that Abu Ammar used Sanaa, the capital of the Arab Republic of Yemen, as an entrance to the capital of Democratic Yemen, for he stopped in Sanaa on his way to the south and on his way back.

An Internal Issue

In fact, since the early days of the January events, Arafat adopted a stance from which he has not deviated, namely to view those events as an internal Yemeni issue.

He was therefore extremely careful all through last year to look at Aden and what was going on there through the eyes of Sanaa. He was equally careful not to hear anything or say anything about those issues except in consultation with the government of the Arab Republic of Yemen and, specifically, with president 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Abu Ammar was in Baghdad when the bloody events of 4 January took place. In less than 24 hours he received an urgent message from the Soviet leadership appealing to him to fly to Sanaa and do everything he could to reconcile the two conflicting parties and put an end to what was going on in Democratic Yemen through an initiative which was to be undertaken by PLO in conjunction with a number of Arab countries.

Although Abu Ammar was scheduled to attend the meetings of the Committee for the Salvation of Jerusalem in Morocco, he went directly to Sanaa and briefed President 'Abdallah Salih on the Soviet appeal. An agreement was then reached that the president of the Arab Republic of Yemen appeal to the combatant factions for a ceasefire and agree to the arrival within hours in Aden of Palestinian troops to oversee the ceasefire. An agreement was also reached on the formation of representative troops from a number of Arab countries to help implement that decision.

The standpoints of both President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih and Abu Ammar were identical. The leadership in Sanaa was very much interested in healing the wounds, in stopping the drain as soon as possible, and in preventing the events in Aden from escalating into a hot confrontation. Meanwhile, the Palestinian leadership was convinced that what happened and was happening would eventually be at the expense of the Palestinian cause and Arab solidarity considered by Palestinians to be one of their chief weapons.

So within hours a Palestinian force of about 500 men was formed under the leadership of Brigadier General Abu Hamid, one of the most distinguished and disciplined Palestinian military leaders. The force was moved in the direction of the borders between the two Yemens via military vehicles painted in white and carrying Palestinian flags. They were driven by Yemeni drivers. After that, contacts began, notwithstanding the many difficulties encountered, with the faction then holding the upper hand in Aden. A preliminary approval came from Minister of Interior Salih al-Sayili for the delivery of provisions and medicines carried by vehicles accompanying the Palestinian force. Those items were sent as an aid from the Palestinian people to the Yemeni people.

As for the military force, it remained stationed near Ta'izz for several days and was then moved to its former position in an urgent fashion.

In the meantime, the PLO was accused of being biased for one faction at the expense of the opposition faction and of sending a military force to the field

to support one group against another. Abu Ammar received a new request from Moscow to halt his preliminary mediation. He also received an open message, wired by the news agencies and reported by the press at the time, from Haydar Abu al-'Attas, who was visiting the Soviet Union in his capacity as prime minister. The message asked the PLO to stop interfering in the internal affairs of Yemen.

This new stance by Moscow, which sent a top official by private plane to Sanaa, greatly upset President 'Ali Salih, as it did Abu Ammar. Sanaa was of the opinion that failure to stop the bloody events immediately and put an end to those events by peaceful means was bound to cause a deep, bleeding cut in the southern sector and trigger conflicts that only God knows when and how they could be contained.

While President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, by virtue of his perception of Aden and Sanaa as one and the same country with the Yemeni population in the northern and southern sectors making up one people, continued to monitor the situation closely and did everything he could to prevent an explosion here and there. Abu Ammar opted to distance himself a little and was satisfied with remotely monitoring the situation lest his efforts be misinterpreted or distorted and lest "those who fish in cloudy water" succeed in burdening the PLO with a new weight over and above what it was already carrying.

But in recent months certain developments forced Abu Ammar to depart from his former position. The mediations, meetings, and dialogues between the new regime and representatives of the outgoing regime in Aden reached a deadlock, and conditions began to deteriorate threatening new explosion.

It is known that considerable efforts have been made to reconcile the two factions in the past few months. Within this framework a summit meeting was held in Tripoli between Abu Bakr al-'Attas and President 'Ali Salih. Other meetings, said to be direct, were held between the two parties to the conflict in Sanaa. But what all those efforts achieved was to prevent an explosion and reduce tension in areas considered to be confrontation lines.

The new regime in Aden expressed full readiness to receive all those who had left the country as part of a general amnesty decree issued in this regard. Excluded from this were a number of former officials who had been blamed for what happened. Meanwhile, supporters of the former regime demand a settlement for the return of about 50,000 people who had fled the country and were now living in camps and tents in the border regions. They also call for the reinstatement of those they call leadership cadres. Moreover, they call for a general convention in which all outstanding issues would be resolved. With these conditions and counter conditions, the mediation efforts reached a dead end.

All who had focused their efforts in that direction gave up and withdrew with the exception of President 'Ali Salih who continued to put out the fire and prevent the situation from getting out of hand. He maintained his contacts, almost on a daily basis, with the new leadership in Aden and with the outgoing leadership moving between Sanaa and Addis Ababa.

In the course of the past few weeks several contacts were made with Abu Ammar, and two senior Soviet officials arrived in Sanaa on an official visit while the PLO leader was there. They briefed him on their country's perception of and standpoint on the situation in Southern Yemen and expressed the wish that he would resume his previous efforts in consultation with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Naturally, the president of the Arab Republic of Yemen was very receptive to his directive, asserting that he would put his weight and his country's weight to support new Palestinian efforts in this regard.

Before departing for Aden, Abu Ammar stopped in Sanaa where he conferred with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who briefed him on the latest development in the situation. From the group loyal to the outgoing president, 'Ali Nasir Muhammed, he elicited views and ideas which he would carry to Aden and submit to the new leadership in Democratic Yemen.

In Aden, Abu Ammar told the officials in southern Yemen, including President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and 'Ali Salim al-Bid that if matters were left unchecked for a longer period of time, they would lead to disaster. He further said that PLO and the leadership in Sanaa were now convinced that it was in the best interest of the Yemeni people and the Arab nation that immediate steps be taken to heal the wounds and bridge the widening gap which forebode serious consequences if left to the winds of external intervention.

Execution Sentences Nullified

Specifically, Abu Ammar submitted a proposal for solving the problem, which he said had the backing of Sanaa. According to this proposal, the on-going trials in Aden must be stopped immediately and the doors opened for those who fled the country and were now living in camps near the border between northern and southern Yemen as a display of goodwill. After than an agreement could be reached on the formation of an Arab committee which would define the responsibility of each party and suggest solutions for a compromise between the two parties. Abu Ammar spoke at length about the experience of southern Yemen, and about brothers with common goals and destiny. He intimated that the other side claimed that the majority of the party was supporting it and that it was prepared to abide by the rulings of the convention held prior to the January events. All it was interested in was a set of guarantees for its supporters to lead their normal life within the party and state apparatus.

Furthermore, Abu Ammar told the officials in Aden that the outgoing president, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, had no objection, initially, that the outgoing leadership would be excluded from the general amnesty but that he would insist on the return of former leadership cadres with well defined and clear guarantees and that such cadres would not be hurt in any way.

Following a series of discussions and lengthy arguments, the officials in Aden informed the PLO leader that as an expression of goodwill they were nullifying all execution sentences handed down in the past and pledging not to mete out any more execution sentences, but at the same time, owing to their commitment to the masses and based on resolutions taken by their party, they could not discontinue ongoing trials.

As to the issue of immigrants, the officials in Aden told Abu Ammar they were still favoring the amnesty decision previously issued by the president, adding that the decision should encompass all but a group of 40 people considered to be directly responsible for the eruption of events. At the same time they declined to give any guarantees for not retaining any person suspected of having played a direct role in those bloody events. At this point the dialogue came to a close and Abu Ammar returned to Sanaa to advise President 'Ali Salih of what he had heard in Aden. Responsible Palestinian sources quote the Palestinian leader as having said that he considered the mere pledge to stop meting out execution sentences to be a major positive step and that he expressed a lot of satisfaction at the genuine interest of the southern Yemen leadership to dress the wounds and prevent the situation from escalating into an explosion.

As a result of consultation with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as to the next step following the promise to stop execution sentences, it has been decided that Abu Ammar continue his efforts in this direction and that he pay another visit to Aden, shortly.

13257/12859

CSO: 4404/146

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

CUBAN DELEGATION VISIT--Aden, 22 Dec (ANA)--The delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Jorge Risquet, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee, this afternoon paid a visit to the Politburo meetings hall at the former premises of the Central Committee Secretariat in Tawahi, the scene of the first episode in the unsuccessful bloody coup conspiracy of 13th January. The delegation was given a detailed resume of the bloody massacre perpetrated by the conspirator, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, whose victims were the historic leaders and tested cadres of the party. The delegation also visited the museum of the martyr, 'Abd al-Fattah Ismail, and the house of the martyr, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar. There the delegation witnessed the all-out damage caused to the two houses by the merciless shelling by the gangs of the conspirator, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The delegation was accompanied by Comrade Sa'id Askari Abdullah, Central Committee member, deputy secretary of the Central Committee. [Text] [Aden ANA in English 1825 GMT 22 Dec 86 EA] /6662

CSO: 4400/82

REPORTS LINK AIDS TO U.S. GERM WARFARE EXPERIMENTS

'More Credible Than Guesswork'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Nov 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Germ Warfare and AIDS"]

[Text]

Recent reports of a controversy amongst biologists over the origin of the AIDS virus should make all those concerned about the grave dangers of germ warfare sit up and take notice. A number of scientists, including Dr. John Secale, a British expert on the dread disease, have challenged the widely believed claim that the AIDS virus originated in the Central African green monkey; they argue instead that it was genetically engineered in a U.S. Army laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland, and probably spread in that country and the rest of the world through accidentally infected researchers or prisoners, who might have been tested in the bacteriological weapons facility. The biologists contend that there is no known animal virus with all the features of the HTLV-1 germ and that the AIDS organism is a combination of parts of the genetic material in the Maedi-Visna virus found in sheep, with parts of the bovine leukaemia virus. It is impossible for a lay person to comment on the veracity of these claims or to interpret structural differences between the AIDS organism and naturally occurring viruses. What is pertinent, however, is that the new arguments are far more credible than the guesswork on which the earlier theory of the origin of AIDS was based. It is conceivable that such deadly germs are being manufactured through genetic manipulation and that some of them are liable to leak out of laboratories, whether accidentally or otherwise.

Indeed, it is known that the U.S. has a sizable programme for the development of germ warfare agents; that 17 years after President Nixon outlawed bacteriological warfare research Mr. Reagan revived it under the guise of a so-called "defensive" programme; and that country is now annually spending \$ 66 million on it, or five times the amount earmarked five years ago. There have been allegations of "disappearance" of substantial quantities of deadly biological toxins and pathogens from U.S. laboratories. It is also known that the Pentagon is pressing for

a special facility in Utah for testing Anthrax, Yellow Fever and Bubonic Plague germs. All this suggests that new advances in Biotechnology and genetic engineering are being rapidly militarised. The consequences of this are too horrifying to contemplate. These deadly germs represent, like nuclear weapons, agents of mass annihilation. The only thing to do with them is to ban and get rid of them. This is precisely what the Bacteriological and Toxic Weapons convention of 1972 sought to do. But as a review in September revealed, breaches of the convention have been frequent and that President Reagan's U.S. has been reluctant to give up its germ warfare programme.

Press Treatment Reviewed

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1, 9

[Article by Gharat Bhushan]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, November 18.

THE U.S. government has denied that its scientists engineered the virus responsible for causing AIDS (acquired immune-deficiency syndrome).

Its denial has come in the wake of a spate of reports claiming that the AIDS virus was a product of U.S. army's genetic engineering experiments related to biological warfare. The Americans claim that these reports are the product of a Soviet "disinformation" campaign designed to mislead the public.

The story of the AIDS virus being a U.S. creation is quite bizarre — originating allegedly in a New Delhi-based daily and then doing the rounds of the Soviet newspapers quoting each other with new "sources" being gathered along the way.

According to the state department, the claim that the AIDS virus was engineered in the U.S. was first made in October, 1985, in "Literaturnaya Gazeta", a Soviet weekly. According to this report, U.S. servicemen who had been used as guinea pigs in the military's genetic engineering experiments were responsible for spreading the disease.

The Soviet paper cited as its source a report that had supposedly appeared in "Patriot", a New Delhi-based newspaper.

The Americans claim that the editor of "Patriot" told them that no such story had appeared in his paper. However, when I met the editor today, he said that he had not issued any categorical denial but had offered to look up

the files for them. (When I asked him whether the story had in fact appeared, he once again offered to look up the files. He said that doing so would take about ten days).

On November 15, 1985, the U.S. government submitted a letter of protest to the editor of "Literaturnaya Gazeta" but apparently it was not published.

The story was, however, picked up from "Literaturnaya Gazeta" by several news agencies and began to appear in a number of newspapers worldwide. It reappeared in the Soviet press in 1986 in the April 27 issue of a general interest daily, "Sovetskaya Rossiya". This time an additional "source" was cited in terms of a book written by Jacques Leibovich in 1984 claiming that the AIDS virus could have been created during biological warfare research. The Americans claim that Leibovich's story is patently untrue.

The story surfaced once again in "Literaturnaya Gazeta" on May 7, 1986. Reference was made this time to a London-based doctor, John Seale, who has frequently claimed that the AIDS virus was a biological weapon. The story was repeated once again "Sovetskaya Rossiya" on June 8, 1986.

Towards the end of August, the AIDS virus story reappeared in Harare during the non-aligned summit. A pamphlet entitled "AIDS: U.S.A. homemade evil, not made in Africa" was circulated among delegates and media personnel. The authors of the pamphlet were said to be Dr. Ronald Dehmlow, Prof. Jakob Segal and Dr. Lilli Segal.

They claimed that the allegations that AIDS had its origin in Africa was a racist decoy operation and that AIDS appeared in the U.S. in 1979 in the wake of the opening of a biological research laboratory for military use at Fort Detrick in Maryland in 1977. Considering that the first AIDS cases in Europe and Africa were reported nearly two to three years later, the authors concluded that the AIDS virus could not have come from anywhere else but the U.S.

The distribution of the pamphlet and its broad conclusions were picked up by various news agencies including UNI, and was used by papers in India. On September 21, the English language Service of Prague Radio, apparently revived the story quoting "French researchers" Prof. Jakob Segal and Dr. Lilli Segal. On October 10, the Soviet news agency Tass repeated the charges. This story was once again picked up by various third world newspapers.

But the biggest boost that this story received was on October 26, when it was published by "Sunday Express", London. Wire services picked up this article and it was once again repeated in newspapers worldwide.

On October 31, "Pravda" published a cartoon showing a man in medical garb handing over a beakerfull of Swastikas suspended in liquid to another man in U.S. military uniform. The man in uniform is shown handing the doctor a wad of dollars. The label on the beaker says "AIDS virus" and several corpses lie at the feet of the two men.

The stories started doing the rounds of Indian newspapers once again in the

first week of November. "Patriot" carried a despatch from its London correspondent, Gordon Schaffer, on November 7. Schaffer quoted approvingly from the "extreme right" "Sunday Express" but claimed that the "scoop" had rightfully been "Patriot's" because three years ago it had made a similar claim.

The earlier "Patriot" story, according to Schaffer, had been based on reports of "an American microbiologist who had to remain anonymous."

"Patriot" followed up Schaffer's report the next day by a story "AIDS genesis: racist deception operation" from IPA service. This too quoted "French scientists" Jakob and Lilli Segal. The same day "Blitz" reproduced the "Sunday Express" story on its front page. Two days later, on November 10, "The Hindustan Times" used the Segal story but only to publish an editorial on November 11 claiming that it was clear that AIDS being a U.S. creation was part of a "disinformation" campaign.

"The Times of India" in an editorial on November 17 said that although it was impossible for a lay person to comment on the veracity of such claims, "the new arguments are far more credible than the guesswork on which the earlier theory of the origin of AIDS was based."

In the meantime, a number of western newspapers had begun questioning the basis of the AIDS story and the credibility of the people who had put it forward.

Writing in "The Guardian", Lodon, on October 27, Andrew Veitch, their medical correspondent, questioned the

veracity of the "Sunday Express" story of the previous day. He claimed that Dr. John Seale, a Harley Street consultant, quoted by "The Express" had "at various times blamed both the Americans and the Russians for engineering the virus and releasing it accidentally in Africa." He cited leading virus experts, including a senior Russian AIDS specialist, Dr. Viktor Zhadanov, as having dismissed Dr. Seale's claims.

On October 31, "The Times," London, carried an article by Iain Elliot, editor of "Soviet Analyst." He too claimed that "The Sunday Express" story was based on poor evidence including that of Jakob and Lilli Segal, who as it turned out were not French but lived in East Berlin.

The Segals, according to the Americans, also taught in Cuba for approximately three years in the late 1960s. "The Sunday Express" story, however, describes Prof. Segal as holding "no political beliefs or views at all."

That the campaign has hit home is evident from the fact that officials of the United States Information Service have had to visit newspaper offices pointing to the attempted "disinformation." They draw attention to the sequence listed above, and in this they have facts on their side.

But they too are not beyond stretching an argument. Thus while "The Guardian" story about the lack of credibility of Dr. John Seale forms an important part of their rebuttal, Andrew Veitch's report is not quoted in full by them. A detailed reading of the original report actually points to what could have been the basis for the alleged "disinformation" campaign.

Veitch quotes a biological warfare expert, Dr. Alastair Hay of Bradford

university, to say that he found the defence department testimony to Washington appropriations committee in 1969 showed that the U.S. army was indeed considering making such a bug.

"The Guardian" quotes the defence department testimony as follows:

"Within the next five or ten years, it would probably be possible to make a new infective micro-organism which could differ in certain important respects from any known disease-causing organisms."

"Most important of these is that it might be refractory to the immunological and therapeutic properties upon which we depend to maintain our relative freedom from infectious disease."

This testimony could very well be the basis for claiming that the micro-organism being developed was the AIDS virus. "The Guardian" report also claims that although the AIDS virus is genetically related to a sheep bug called visna virus, almost all western AIDS specialists believe that the AIDS virus mutated naturally and spontaneously from an animal. "The Guardian" concluded that this probably happened in Africa and possibly in a monkey.

By now two inferences can safely be drawn. First, the manner in which this particular story has appeared and spread strongly points to a systematic, Soviet-inspired, and by now fairly successful disinformation campaign. Second, we have not heard the last of this controversy because there is as yet no convincing evidence of the AIDS virus having either originated in monkeys in Africa or having been artificially created.

Health Minister's Remarks

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 Nov 86 p 5

[Text]

New Delhi, Nov. 26 (UNI): Indian experts have said there is no definite evidence that the AIDS virus is the result of biological warfare experiments, the health and family welfare minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, told the Rajya Sabha today.

Mr Rao said it would therefore be most improper for the Indian government to make any complaint of this nature to the United States.

The minister denied that there had been any decline in blood donations following the discovery of AIDS. He said his statement was based on studies carried out in Delhi "and some other places." Mr Rao said the Indian Council of Medical Research was trying to contact the two US researchers who said AIDS was a result of failed biological warfare research for facts.

/9274

CSO: 5450/0049

IRAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY ACCUSED OF 'DEVIATION' IN CONTACTING U.S.

London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Dec 86 p 15

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] In the announcements published in Tehran and signed by the Islamic societies of the University of Tehran, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic is presented as the main element in contact with the United States, and the trial of several officials of this ministry is demanded. In the same vein, KEYHAN newspaper of Tehran published an article by the representative of the Islamic society of the University of Tehran on Tuesday, 27 Aban [18 November], some of which included parts of the announcements published by these societies.

The column on the thoughts of the representative of the Islamic society of the University of Tehran reads:

Clearly, with regard to the dealings that are necessary with the United States, if we intend to merely protect ourselves, we will certainly be defeated. But, as Grand Ayatollah Montazeri has frequently emphasized, if we pursue an active and dynamic policy in regards to the liberation movements and building forces throughout the world in order to strike a blow against imperialism in all areas of the world, then the revolution can be protected and expanded.

Unfortunately, I must confess that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic does not follow this principle and fundamental guide. In the Foreign Ministry, relationships with governments have replaced relationships with the nations as a principle, which is a basic deviation from our foreign policy.

In the Foreign Ministry and among the policy makers of the Islamic Republic, two views and opinions prevail. The difference between these two views stems from the method of dealing and the level of relationships with the United States and the West.

In one faction, fighting against the United States and its cohorts and avoiding the establishment of high-level relations is discussed; the other faction openly discusses, defends, and even demands the establishment of

relations with the United States while the imam is alive. In our opinion, fighting the United States as the Great Satan is one of the main duties of the Islamic revolution; and this important task cannot be accomplished except through striking blows against and attacking all interests of the United States.

The representative of the Islamic society of the University of Tehran then suggests that the correct method of fighting against the United States is to establish relations with the liberation movements, that is, the terrorist organizations that have appeared in Lebanon and elsewhere funded by Iran and writes:

"The proper way to fight is through establishing relations with the liberation movements, building cadres and striking out against the United States in all areas. The successful phenomenon in Lebanon called the Hezbollah supports this view. Three years ago, the Hezbollah did not exist in Lebanon, but at the present, this movement is one of the most influential factors in the issues of Lebanon and the region."

The writer then states: Strengthening the relations between the Islamic Republic and Japan, West Germany, France and England will ultimately end in compromise with the United States.

Let us remember that LE MONDE mentions Besharati, Lavasani and Sheykh ol-Eslam, from the Foreign Ministry cadre, and Mohammad 'Ali Ha'eri, the representative of the Majlis, as those who engaged in negotiations and discussions with McFarlane and other U.S. envoys in Tehran. It also seems that, at the present time, the names of high officials who have had close contact with the U.S. envoys are being kept quite secret.

10,000

CSO: 4640/35

IRAN

CLERICS' NAMES ON SAVAK PAYROLL AT MONTAZERI'S RESIDENCE

London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Dec 86 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] SAVAMA (the security organization of the Islamic Republic) has discovered the names of clerics who were on the SAVAK payroll during the past regime in the home of Ayatollah Montazeri.

Reports from Tehran state that, in the course of inspecting the home of Ayatollah Montazeri, agents of the Ministry of Intelligence of the Islamic Republic have obtained a list of clerics who were on the "SAVAK payroll" during the previous regime. In addition to this list, the agents of the Ministry of Intelligence of the regime also obtained other documents and papers concerning the activities of SAVAK in the clerical circles in Qom and Mashhad. These documents were obtained by the Hashemi brothers during their confiscation and filing of SAVAK information. They had taken them to the home of Ayatollah Montazeri to be used at the "proper" moment to suppress his possible opponents. Hadi Hashemi, the son-in-law of Ayatollah Montazeri, who was arrested last month by the agents of the Ministry of Intelligence of the regime, had hidden these documents in the home of Ayatollah Montazeri, thinking that no one would dare trespass into the home of the ayatollah and find them.

While the agents of the Ministry of Intelligence of the Islamic Republic were arresting the Hashemi brothers and the terrorists who helped them, agents took advantage of the day Ayatollah Montazeri traveled to Tehran to visit Ayatollah Khomeyni and carefully searched his home. In the course of this search, the complete list of clerics who were on the SAVAK payroll was discovered.

The disclosure of this report created widespread excitement and trepidation in the religious circles, particularly among the high-ranking officials of the Tehran government. On the one hand, that group of clerics who were on the SAVAK payroll during the past regime and are now in high-level positions in the ruling regime are frightened; on the other hand, the discovery of this list has created severe disdain among the ideological young people who follow the line of the imam and who, with sincere intentions, trusted the clerics and joined hands with them to make the revolution.

In sum, the discovery of the list of those on the SAVAK payroll in the home of Ayatollah Montazeri has escalated the atmosphere of tension, fear and competition in the government and governing clerical circles.

According to rumors in Tehran, the Hashemi brothers have made a copy of this list and hidden it elsewhere. Mehdi Hashemi made mention of this matter to the SAVAMA officials while he was under interrogation and warned them that if they make it difficult for him, he would instruct his supporters to publish this list. This threat reportedly resulted in the agents of the Ministry of Intelligence of the Islamic Republic freeing the Hashemi brothers and trying to resolve the matter of differences in a "friendly" manner. Apparently, negotiations continue for the friendly resolution of the differences among Ayatollah Montazeri, the president, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, the minister of intelligence.

10,000

CSO: 4640/35

GASOLINE LINES, OTHER RELATED ISSUES DISCUSSED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 86 p 18

[Text] Economic Service—Our nation's minister of petroleum gave a press conference in which he discussed the reasons for the long lines at the gasoline pumps early last week, the positive effects of rationing gasoline, the likelihood of increased gasoline rations in the future, the impossibility of counterfeiting gasoline ration coupons, the prosecution of those who abuse them, the denial of rumors pertaining to the rationing of gasoline, the announcement that the new kerosene ration coupons will be increased with the onset of cold weather, the assignment of undercover investigators at distribution points to prevent violations, the activation of all existing gasoline pumps, and finally matters pertaining to the renewed struggle of the people of Iran against the difficulties arising from the the war in the area of fuel.

KEYHAN's correspondent reports that in this press conference Aqazadeh began by discussing the reasons for the long lines at the gasoline pumps early last week. He said: Some of the gasoline produced in the country was produced and distributed in non-standard form, and since this type of gasoline is unfortunately not suitable for automobiles, officials were obliged to recall this type of gasoline. One of the reasons for the long lines is simply the failure or delay in the removal of gasoline from storage sites. The minister of petroleum said: Apart from this factor, which is purely technical, another factor is the ill-advised announcement of the expiration of ration coupons by officials, which naturally made coupon holders anxious, and their rush to the pumps created lines.

Here I must apologize to the people of our country because this problem occurred. I hope, God willing, with the care that will be taken henceforth, that we will not face such problems.

Comments by the Distribution Chief

The minister of petroleum was accompanied at the press conference by Mohammad Nezhad, director of distribution, pipelines, and communications for the National Oil Company. The minister of petroleum then asked him to make additional comments to correspondents concerning the distribution of non-standardized gasoline.

In this regard, Mohammad Nezhad said: The problem of excessive gasoline octane has arisen before, but there has never been such a reaction.

The fact that this problem occurred at the same time that coupons were being voided complicated it to some degree. He said: The distribution of gasoline with non-standard specifications does severe damage to automobile engines. Fortunately the timely attention of officials prevented its

distribution. Following his remarks, the minister of petroleum said: We have saved six million liters of gasoline every day because of rationing and added them to our strategic reserves. He said: These measures will enable more to be accomplished, and in the future the amount of gasoline being rationed will increase. On the other hand, gasoline reserves in these quantities have caused us not to import as much gasoline as before, and consequently most of the fuel we have imported has been kerosene, so that with the onset of cold weather, ration coupons for kerosene can be announced often and at short intervals, and so that in this respect the people of our nation will not face difficulties in the winter. He also said: The level of distribution of kerosene will be the same as last year and will not be reduced.

Continuing his remarks, Aqazadeh discussed the positive effects of rationing gasoline. He said: Along with the elimination of heavy traffic on Tehran's streets because people are not making unnecessary use of their automobiles, one must also mention the reduced air pollution as a result of gasoline rationing and reduced vehicle traffic. He said: With the rationing of gasoline, the owners of private automobiles use them only when necessary, and this will attract the attention of officials.

He said: Contrary to rumor, we have no intention under these conditions of stopping the rationing of gasoline for private automobiles.

Aqazadeh said: In the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] more than 600 million dollars of the nation's foreign exchange were spent on automobile parts, and with the rationing of gasoline, naturally money will be saved on these items.

Likewise, from 230 to 240 million dollars in foreign exchange were spent last year [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987] for imported automobile tires, and money has also been saved in this area.

The minister of petroleum then discussed the liter value of gasoline ration coupons. He said: Gasoline ration coupons do not have a date or a liter value because in view of our existing reserves we will try to increase gasoline distribution in the months ahead.

In answer to a question from a correspondent, he then discussed the question of counterfeiting ration coupons. He said: It is not possible to counterfeit gasoline ration coupons, because the paper used for these resembles that of currency notes, and with the various methods used to make them the possibility of every kind of abuse will be eliminated. In the event a violation should occur, however, the perpetrator's prosecution will be the responsibility of the nation's courts, not ourselves; we have the responsibility of procuring fuel for the people.

The director of distribution for the National Oil Company said: The sale and purchase of gasoline ration coupons will be prosecuted as quickly as possible. For this reason we have obtained the numbers of existing automobiles from the Department of Roads and Licensing, and we are studying them so that if there are abuses they will be identifiable. Likewise there is a group in the Ministry of Petroleum studying the issue and the results of that study will be released in the next week. Clearly, however, until coupons are voided we will not be able to control them. He said: It has been decided that henceforth the effective dates and expiration dates of newly-announced coupons will be announced simultaneously to prevent problems.

Another correspondent asked Aqazadeh about the rumor that diesel oil is to be rationed. He said: We have no plans to ration diesel oil, first of all because diesel oil cannot be so easily rationed, and secondly because the production of diesel oil is good and there is no need to ration it.

He said: There are no restrictions on the issuance of diesel oil to the agricultural sector, to the fronts, to the power plants, and to the industrial centers. There has only been a slight delay in the delivery of diesel oil to homes, and God willing, this too will be eliminated in a few days.

Following Aqazadeh's remarks, the minister of petroleum said: The foreign press has expressed surprise that Iran continues to stand on its own feet and resist in the face of the problems of the war. At the conclusion of this press conference, he thanked the police, and especially officials of the Islamic revolutionary komitehs, who have prevented incidents at the gasoline pumps with their comprehensive presence.

9310

CSO: 4640/0051

PRIVATE INDUSTRY SAID TO EMPLOY OVER ONE MILLION PEOPLE

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 24 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

The number of private sector cottage, small medium-size and big industries in the country has reached 754,000 and the total manpower involved in those industries come to 1 271,000

Just a few years back it was indeed a matter of great curiosity to hear of industrial products carrying the label "Made in Nepal", whereas today many items are produced within the

country itself and self-sufficiency has been gained in a number of items.

Investment in private sector industries now totals 830 million rupees and annual industrial production is now worth about 3290 million rupees.

The Seventh Plan, like the previous ones, aims to enlist greater private sector involvement in boosting national economy.

/9274

CSO: 4600/104

COMMENTARY VIEWS PLIGHT OF NEPALIS IN INDIA

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 24 Dec 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Nepalis in India"]

[Text]

It was reported some time back that the Indian state of Sikkim has ordered 7,000 Nepalis out of its territory. Sikkim's expulsion is just another step in expelling Nepalis from some northeastern states of India. Nepalis constitute a considerable percentage of the population in some of these states and that they might become a formidable political force in future has prompted the Indian states to take the drastic step. However justifiable the action is, His Majesty's Government should certainly show its concern in one way or another over the matter so that the people who are expelled are not put to any hardship. Moreover, the plight of people of Nepali descent living in India for generations who suddenly find themselves homeless and unwanted cannot be described as a minor issue and deserves serious consideration of all concerned.

All these deportations are in contravention to the Nepal-India Treaty of 1950 which guarantees nationals of either country in the territories of the other complete rights except the right to vote. The Indian authorities have a habit of citing state rules regarding work permits justifying the expulsions of Nepalis. If that is so why were they not dropped outside state boundaries instead of being brought all the way to Nepal. Yet, our government keeps mum. No great imagination is needed to understand the implications of a similar action on Indian nationals by our own authorities. Thus, it can be presumed that the helplessness of Nepali deportees is only the logical sequence to our government's inaction. This attitude needs to be changed soon if people are to have faith in the government as one which looks after the welfare of its citizens whether in the country or outside.

/9274

CSO: 4600/104

SALARY INCREASES FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS OF ALL CLASSES

Government Employees Salaries Raised

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

Kathmandu, Dec. 29 (RSS):

On the occasion of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev's 42nd auspicious birthday, His Majesty's Government has decided to increase the monthly salary of the public servants of all classes and ranks including those of constitutional organs, in Royal Palace service, civil service, Royal Nepal Army and police service by one hundred rupees with effect from the month of Poush (December 16).

The monthly salary of primary, lower secondary and secondary schools has also been increased by one hundred rupees from that date. The government has decided to grant necessary amount to district education committees to meet the extra financial burden resulting from the salary increase.

The government decision has made an increment of one hundred rupees in the amount of the current starting scale and last scale of various services.

According to the Finance Ministry, following the government decision the salary of lower level public servants has increased by over twenty percent while that of higher officials has increased by about two percent.

Commentary Views Raise

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

TO WELCOME the decision by His Majesty's Government to raise the salaries of public servants of all classes and ranks, including those of constitutional bodies, in the Royal Palace service, Civil Service, Royal Nepal Army and Police service as well as those of school teachers, would be stressing the obvious. The increase in the market prices of daily use has been a burden hard to cope with, particularly to those with fixed

income. Hence the decision has come as a major relief to the salaried class and the occasion selected to announce it—coming as it did on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's auspicious birthday—could not have been better.

Beyond the immediate benefits to the direct beneficiaries of the measure, there are a number of other indicators stressing the concern and seriousness with which His Majesty's Government is engaged in efforts aimed at alleviating the problems of the people and improving their standards of living. Firstly, the new pay hike seeks a social justice in that there is a blanket increase of one hundred rupees a month, irrespective of the employees' positions in their institutional hierarchy. In effect, the decision awards a rise of twenty-four percent in the salaries of employees in the lowest rung of the ladder and about two percent in those of the higher class of officials. While it may not always be reasonable and possible to effect such a blanket increment, the decision this time has been received with alacrity not only by the lower employees but also, equally, by those in the upper grades of their institutional hierarchy. The policy is surely to give special priority to the low income group even in the salaried classes. Secondly, the element of surprise in the announcement speaks of the secrecy maintained throughout. Though there were rumours of an extra month's salary sometime back, Monday's announcement came as a truly pleasant surprise as there were neither rumours to this effect in recent weeks nor any inkling from official sources.

But most importantly, what the decision

underscores is His Majesty's Government's constant bid for providing relief measures as far as its limited resources permit. In retrospect, the latest decision is only in keeping with the various steps undertaken in recent months regarding efforts aimed at effectively dealing with nefarious trade, corruption and other activities not conforming with the law of the land, no matter what the "social and economic standing" of the persons involved might be. Behind the latest salary increment, effective from December 16 which also marked the completion of the Silver Jubilee of the Panchayat system, a lot of thinking had apparently gone through. The fact that it had been decided to also grant the necessary amount to district education committees to meet the extra financial involvement resulting from the salary increase of school teachers, is indicative of the thoroughness that has gone into the whole exercise that would otherwise have created confusion, even if temporarily. In sum, the Government has taken a number of measures that have instilled a sense of confidence in the people about its earnestness to cope with the development challenges and other problems of the country and the people. It is, therefore, the need of the hour for all to respond positively to the development endeavours that promise to bring about rapid improvement in the quality of life in the country. The year 2043 B.S. has witnessed a number of milestones, two major ones being the Panchayat Silver Jubilee and the fifteenth year of the accession to the Throne by His Majesty the King. What more appropriate occasion than this to pledge ourselves to contributing to the task of building the nation speedily? ■

/9274

CSO: 4600/103

ARRANGEMENTS SAID MADE TO AVERT FOOD CRISIS

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 27 Dec 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Kathmandu, Dec. 26 (RSS):

HMG has made immediate and long term arrangements to avert any food crisis in Nepal, according to a spokesman at the Ministry of Supplies.

Though some irregularity in the initial phase of the monsoon this year has been a little bad for the spring crop, the situation improved later he said.

The summer crop was only marginally affected and the winter crop encouraging.

Representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Supplies had twice made study tours of the terai plains to assess the effects of the monsoon irregularity and HMG had prepared measures on the basis of the

reports submitted. Government was now prepared for any contingency.

With the new crop already in and starting to reach the market, there was little demand on the reserves at the Nepal Food Corporation.

This corporation had stocks of about 25,000 metric tons and intended to stockpile another 75,000 metric tons during the current year.

No food shortage would be allowed anywhere in the country and HMG had been mobilising and would continue to mobilize all available means of transport to cope with any local shortage.

The internationally accepted norm today was for other countries and international bodies to step in with food aid when natural calamity overtook any part of the world any there was no begging involved in this.

Such aid was in fact being received for relief work in some affected parts of the terai, he added.

/9274

CSO: 4600/103

EXTENSION OF SMALL FARMER PROJECT PLANNED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 27 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

Kathmandu, Dec 26 (RSS)

Small Farmer development is to be extended to all 75 districts in Nepal by 2000 A.D. and the number of related projects increased to 1,040.

This will mean an increase of 790 projects covering an additional 1,585 village panchayats.

According to the Agriculture Development Bank, there are now 250 small farmer development projects in 345 panchayats scattered over 60 districts.

The expanded projects will bring small farmers

together into 39,734 groups that in turn will benefit 394 thousand small farmer families.

The farmer groups will include 7,899 women's groups.

There are now 5,891 such groups including 684 for women.

These are benefitting 52,834 rural families.

Under the small farmer development scheme loan investments totalling 259 million 14 thousand rupees had been made by mid July last and 100 million 99

thousand of these loans recovered.

Groups saving of Rs. 3,786,000 have been deposited by small farmers, it is also learnt.

Under the same scheme, another 3,500 hectares are to be irrigated in the next 14 years through small farmer irrigation works.

This is expected to benefit 30 to 35 thousand small farmer families.

At the end of the last five year plan such irrigation carried out under eight projects benefitted 600 families.

The next 14 years will also see the development of 300 multipurpose energy sources, 125 bio-gas plants and 153 rural power generating units as well as the distribution of 70 thousand smoke-free stoves and tree planting on 2,390 hectares.

The small farmer development scheme started as a pilot project about 10 years ago. It was upgraded to a national programme a few years ago.

Small farmers are those whose annual net percapita income is below rs. 1,200.

BRIEFS

TRADE DELEGATION FROM TIBET--Kathmandu, 1 Jan (RSS)--A 20-member delegation of the foreign economic relation and trade department of Tibet Autonomous Region of China is to visit Nepal at the invitation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce. According to Nepal Chamber of Commerce, the delegation members will meet with industrialists and traders and hold discussions on the promotion of Nepal-Tibet trade. The delegation members are to visit different industrial and commercial enterprises. It may be recalled that a nine-member delegation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce had visited Tibet in the month of Kartik this year, [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 Jan 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 4600/103

U.S. PROPOSAL TO STATION AWACS CREW CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 29 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "What Price U.S. Friendship?"]

[Text] Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary for defense and international affairs, said at a press conference the other day that the United States would provide the airborne warning and control system (AWACS) to Pakistan along with the personnel to install it. He explained that it would take 3 years to install. He further said that the United States would send a team of experts to teach Pakistani soldiers how to use the Stinger missiles that it would supply to Pakistan.

Is it bad luck or is it a result of our mistaken foreign policy that we depend entirely on the United States for the purchase of arms, while India, being craftier, is gathering munitions from all over the world? Despite being an ally of the Soviets, India has tricked the United States, the chief rival of the Soviets, into selling it arms and ammunition. Now it is courting the friendship of the United States by pretending to be nonaligned. We are not a warlike people, nor do we want to turn our country into an arsenal, but in view of our present situation we need to be better armed. We get such arms from the United States, which for its special benefit calls Pakistan its friend. The United States has never proved to be a friend in need, even though it has been supplying arms to us, on rather harsh conditions. Our neighbor, India, is raising a clamor against our getting these arms at all. Now the United States has consented to give us the AWACS on the condition of sending along a crew to install it. This condition is unnecessary, and moreover, it will make our nonalignment suspect and give our opponents the opportunity to increase their propaganda against us.

Why does the United States think our technicians are not competent to understand and install the AWACS themselves? Time and again our Pakistani experts have proved that they can understand, control and use all of the most sophisticated military and defense equipment. All they require is the equipment itself. Intelligence does not belong only to Americans. The radar system, however intricate its operation, should not take U.S. experts 3 years to install. If the operation is really that intricate it would be better to have Pakistani experts trained in the United States instead of sending a team of U.S. experts to stay in a foreign land. Friendship demands that Pakistanis

be taught the new technology, but strangely, technology has been given to India, while the experts are being sent to us. India is buying defense equipment from the United States on the condition that it be given the technology as well. When buying arms and ammunition from other countries, India obtains from them a license to produce that equipment domestically. We are not talking only about AWACS. The United States sends a crew of experts with every kind of equipment we buy from it. We have to pay the salaries and other expenses of so many people that the greater part of the AID money is spent in this way. Furthermore, we get the blame for providing airbases to the United States. India is capitalizing on this, telling the world that the United States is firmly entrenched in Pakistan. India is getting a great deal of help from the Soviets by raising the specter of American power in Pakistan. The United States, in its desire to maintain a balance of power is giving India more and more equipment. The United States could easily accept Pakistani technicians for training in the use of AWACS and Stinger missiles. By sending an American crew to Pakistan, the United States gives the impression that it wants to keep us in permanent dependence in technology. Does it consider this friendship? Are its rules of friendship so unique?

12476/13104
CSO: 4656/22

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR DETERIORATION OF LAW, ORDER

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Nov 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Show of Weapons"]

[Text] The incidents of looting, murder and pillage that are occurring in Karachi and Hyderabad as well as in Lahore and Quetta are not a passing phase of hooliganism. If we study the situation carefully, we can see that this storm has been brewing for a very long time. We think that the seeds of disruption were sown in the foundations of Pakistan, when this citadel of Islam was created. Not just one but several forces have been at work against us. The poisonous seeds grew into big trees as soon as they found an antipatriotic environment. Now we are in the midst of a storm of mutual hatred. We are itching to kill, destroy and burn those around us. This is the wrath of God. He gave us a secure homeland to save us from destruction, and we forgot Him. Now we are at the brink of a pit of raging fire that is ready to consume us.

If our rulers had faced the facts, they could have seen the seeds of disruption and destroyed them before they took root. But each ruler thought only of making his own rule permanent; none of them ever thought about the nation. The seeds of disunity found fertile ground in the hatred generated by the three periods of military rule. We received the first fruit of this harvest of hatred when we lost half our country in 1971. Even this did not satisfy the antinational elements in the country. The 6 years of so-called democratic rule pitted brother against brother and province against province. Everyone had a feeling of deprivation. To cap it all, martial law was imposed on the nation for a third time. If we need to ask the organizers of martial law what steps they took to promote unity and cooperation among the people or to generate the love of Islam and Pakistan in the people's hearts, they would not have a word to say. Islam is the only basis for unity among Muslims. During the last martial law period, a lot was said about Islam, and now the administration that was borne of that martial law also talks about Islam and Islamic ideology. Is what is happening in Karachi, Hyderabad and the rest of the country the result of Islamic ideology? Why is Islam being defeated by antinational conspirators? Subversive elements are everywhere, and they are busy destroying the very foundations of the country. But the rulers are too

occupied in the political tug-of-war to take notice of anything. If they do not take heed now, they will soon find that there is no longer power for them, and no longer democracy, either.

The biggest city in Pakistan is aflame. The whole country is in the midst of intense turmoil. Curfew was first imposed in Lahore and Quetta, and now it has been imposed in Karachi and Hyderabad. The federal cabinet is examining the state of affairs and studying to what extent the Muslim League is capable of handling the situation. If the League had any capability, it would not have allowed things to deteriorate so far. It was decided at a meeting of the federal cabinet that the strongest steps would be taken to eradicate the elements that are sowing the seeds of disunity in the county and that the life and property of the people would be protected at all cost. All government departments were ordered to help uncover all those who have been causing the countrywide reign of terror; their internal and external connections are to be ascertained and reported to the government. Regarding this order, all we can do is to ask: was the government asleep before the storm broke? Why did it not catch the mischiefmakers before they had caused so much damage? Does the administration treat everything like the railway crossing at Qaidabad, where no bridge was built until a serious accident occurred? This administration has not come out of a vacuum. True, it has not been in power long, but the government officials knew what had been happening for a long time before they came to power. They could have controlled the situation if, instead of spending their time trying to strengthen their political position, they had thought about the security and integrity of the nation. It is not yet too late. If the resolutions passed by the federal cabinet are fulfilled honestly, the country can be saved.

Ghaus Ali Shah, chief minister of Sind at a meeting of the provincial cabinet said: "The law and order situation has improved, and matters are under control." Then he went on to say: "Our show of arms and ammunition is absolutely matchless." He is absolutely wrong there. Sind is in the grip in provincialism, the latest weapons of war are exhibited in every jungle and educational institution in Sind. The press reports that educational institutions have become arsenals. The police have captured truckloads of weapons, but what about the arms that have reached the hands of the antinational elements? Everybody in the province talks in the language of guns. Some criminal centers are so strong that the police dare not enter them. What does all this mean? Who is the organizer of this show of weapons we see throughout the province? For God's sake, the talk must come to an end, and something must be done to control the situation!

12476/13104
CSO: 4656/22

LINK BETWEEN SIND STUDENT GROUPS, BANDITRY POINTED OUT

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 19 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Bandits or Disruptive Political Force?"]

[Text] Following the death of the notorious bandit Ali Gauhar Khan Chandio in the interior of Sind, the arrest of another dangerous bandit, Kashmir Khan, and his five associates suggests that the police have really become serious in their dealings with antisocial elements. Apparently, it was decided at a high level that the only way to curb the uproar and tumult regarding the situation in the interior of Sind was to make a show of some kind of efficiency by arresting or killing some 10-20 notorious dacoits, so that for some time to come not only would the people be satisfied, but the criminal activities would also stop to some extent. We hope, however, that the campaign initiated against the bandits and antisocial elements will not end until the province is totally rid of such elements.

The facts that came to light about Kashmir Khan's associates at the time of their arrest are not only shocking but very thought provoking. The fact that four of his five followers are not only highly educated but also have a strong connection with the Jie Sind Student Federation is very disturbing, indeed. One of his followers, Zulfiqar Manghi, is the unit chief of the Jie Student Federation at Sind University. The other three are students at Jamshoro University and are also members of this student organization. What is still more shocking is that Zulfiqar Manghi is wanted in regard to five cases. He has served 3 years in prison for his involvement in a robbery incident in Karachi. Despite all this he is a so-called student leader at a large institution such as Sind University. The views of the Jie Sind organization and of G.M. Syed are not hidden from anyone. They openly speak of breaking up Pakistan. The student organization created by G.M. Syed has raised the slogan, "Let Pakistan be destroyed." The involvement of dacoits and murderers in this organization clearly indicates that this is not a matter of vagabonds and violators of law and order, but that these are disruptive elements who have political interests of their own. These are not the activities of a few whose objective is to gain wealth by banditry, but activities carried out on the basis of a well-organized plan to strengthen their own political party in two ways. That is, the wealth obtained by banditry and looting adds to the party's funds--funds that are used to purchase the enemies of the country and their consciences, on one hand, and on the other, used to weaken the administration

by disrupting peace and tranquillity and shaking the people's confidence with respect to the country's stability and security. The foundations of a country or a region, in which the people's will is frustrated become so weak that it is unable to withstand attack, however feeble, from the opposition. This is the real aim and objective of the "Jie Sind" and its founder, G.M. Syed. People such as G.M. Syed whose sole aim is to break up Pakistan are working on a number of plans simultaneously to achieve their cherished goal.

Today, great importance is being attached to educational institutions, where well-organized plans are underway for leading the future architects astray. The fact that the four dacoits captured together with Kashmir Khan are office-holders in an organization active in educational institutions in Sind deserves serious consideration. On this basis it can safely be concluded that they have a certain amount of influence over the students. It is difficult to ascertain how many acts they may have pressured or coaxed students into doing for them through the use of this influence. And by misleading some students or by exerting pressure, who knows how many more students were brought to share their views and join their rank and file. When student leaders are backed by well-organized bands of bandits and dacoits, they can cause terror and fear whereby God-fearing and patriotic students are afraid to open their mouths. This is why antipatriotic elements at Sind University have been openly raising slogans and sticking posters on walls against the country and against religion for so many years. Before restrictions were imposed on student organizations, the Islamic Students Association was the only student group whose brave workers raised slogans for Pakistan and Islam at the risk of their lives and fearlessly fought against ideological enemies during student elections. But it is difficult to say why the government imposed restrictions on student organizations. The youthful guardians of geographical borders and ideologies abided by these restrictions, whereas the enemies of Islam and Pakistan are continuing their underground activities, disguised at times as bandits and at other times busily engaged in disruptive activities. The question that arises is whether the government is not aware of the conditions prevailing in educational institutions. Does not the government see that a situation identical to that prevailing in what was once East Pakistan is now present here as well? Here, too, dacoits, bandits and murderers are boldly roaming about at schools and colleges disguised as students. On the other hand, some teachers are openly inciting atheism and anti-Pakistan activities. Similarly, in East Pakistan, atheist teachers in educational institutions had started to lead the new generation away from religion and incite them against the country. When frustrated students filled with hatred come out of these institutions, some so-called leaders exploit them. The same plans are now taking shape in Pakistan. Communist, atheist and Indian agents are active in educational institutions in Sind. Hindus from the interior of Sind are being brought in the name of deprivations. Poor Sindhi Muslims remain backward. At an institution such as Karachi University there are some professors who proudly tell their students that they do not believe in "hadith" or they attack Islam by taking shelter behind "mullahs," but it is not known what the administration is doing about this. It is vain to expect law and order

authorities to learn anything about people... inside an ideological fortress when such authorities did not know anything about the criminal, former convict student living comfortably at "Gulsham Iqbal" whose house provided asylum to bandits.

With the arrest of individuals who have connections with a political group in their capacity as dacoits, it cannot be denied that some so-called political groups are responsible for the deteriorating situation in Sind. We mentioned this fact earlier, but the government insisted that political organizations had nothing to do with these incidents. Can this be taken to mean that the government does not receive correct information or that it is intentionally closing its eyes and concealing the facts? Whatever the case, these incidents should prove to be eye openers to the government by making clear that special interests are working behind the disruptive activities, dacoits and killings; that the matter will not end simply with the arrest of a few dacoits, but that the government will have to punish their supporters. Also, the government will have to assess the damage incurred by imposing restrictions on student organizations. We take this opportunity to warn the Punjab government not to allow vagabonds to carry out their activities in educational institutions and create conditions similar to those in Sind.

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